

# PINK

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## FOGDEN PUTS CHERRIES WITHIN STRIKING DISTANCE OF TOP 6

BOURNEMOUTH v NOTTS COUNTY MATCH REPORT – SEE PAGE 17



## DERBY DELIGHT



Saints under-18s  
defeat Pompey

– see page 6

# AWAY THE LADS!

**Guly leads charge as  
Saints get back on  
track with Forest KO**

**N FOREST 0 SAINTS 3**

**SAINTS** strengthened their promotion chances with a 3-0 win at ten man Nottingham Forest.

Nigel Adkins' side were in control for most of the match and took a first half lead through Guly do Prado.

James Chambers was sent off early in the second period for flooring David Connolly and Saints used their numerical advantage to good effect as they added another two goals through Connolly and Morgan Schneiderlin.

West Ham were the only other side in the top four to pick up a win meaning they and Saints remain joint top, now with 50 points, and have a four point cushion over third placed Cardiff and five over fourth placed Middlesbrough.

**GET IN THERE!** David Connolly celebrates his goal with team-mates Adam Lallana and Morgan Schneiderlin.



**FOREST v SAINTS MATCH REPORT AND REACTION – SEE PAGES 2-5**

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**TERRY PAIN**



Saints legend's  
exclusive column.  
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**MATT TUBBS**



Ex-Whites ace tipped  
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**NON-LEAGUE**



Will crowds match  
Eastleigh progress?  
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# Saints Spotlight

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N FOREST 0 SAINTS 3: ADKINS' MEN DOUSE FOREST FIRE TO

# DOMINANT SAINTS VITAL BREATHING

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The first shot of the game came on four minutes but Marlon Harewood's attempt to volley goalwards from the edge of the area as the ball dropped out of the air was well off target.

Dean Hammond produced a much better effort up the other end four minutes later that

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**CHIEF SPORTS REPORTER**

forced Lee Camp into a decent save.

Adam Lallana drifted in from the left, squared the ball across the face of the box to Hammond who took a touch before drilling a shot towards goal that Camp pushed wide, diving away to his right.

The game was off to a rather subdued start but it was clear that Forest were a side lacking in confidence with the crowd at The City Ground also on edge.

Saints were often bossing possession but chances were hard to come by.

Lallana did get an effort on target on 17 minutes but his shot from the edge of the area was straight at Camp who completed a comfortable take.

Marcus Tudgay had a presentable chance for Forest as a corner reached him at the far

post but he headed well over the bar.

He had another go on 22 minutes, attempting to lob Kelvin Davis after Harewood's flicked pass over the top of the Saints defence but he didn't get enough of it and it was an easy catch for the keeper.

Jos Hooiveld became the first man in the book three minutes later for a trip on Tudgay as he threatened to get in behind.

The Saints defender redeemed himself from the free kick which was drilled into the box and broke to Harewood who looked like scoring before Hooiveld's sliding challenge.

It proved a pivotal moment as Saints went up the other end and took the lead on 27 minutes.

Jack Cork was played in down the right, he looked up and cut the ball back to Connolly whose



first time shot was saved by Camp diving to his right.

However, the loose ball broke to Guly do Prado who drilled it past the keeper and the men on the line.

Joel Lynch should have levelled things up on 32 minutes when Luke Chambers' flick from a Gareth McCleary corner found him at the far post but he headed over.

Lewis McGugan forced Davis into a save four minutes later with a long-range free kick that needed a decent stop.

Connolly's dipping effort from distance at the other end was straight at Camp who collected the ball.

When the half-time whistle went Saints were happy to come off in the lead and knew another goal would probably seal the points but the longer it stayed 1-0 the greater the risk Forest might nick something from it.

The second half started in much the same way as the first ended – with Forest struggling to string much together and Saints in control of possession. Saints' hopes were given a further boost when Forest were



NIGEL Adkins had players returning to fitness which allowed him to ring the changes up front for the trip to Nottingham Forest.

James Ward-Prowse and Ryan Doble dropped out of the starting line-up from the Coventry game

### TEAM NEWS

with the fit again pair of Guly Do Prado and David Connolly in attack, while Adam Lallana dropped back to the left of midfield.

Dan Harding continued at right

back with Frazer Richardson still out.

Kelvin Davis came back into the goal for Bartosz Bialkowski, but Rickie Lambert was serving the second match of his three-game ban.

**READ THE BEAUTIFUL SOUTH COLUMN ON PAGE 8**

# Saints Spotlight

**OPEN UP FOUR-POINT GAP OVER THIRD-PLACED CARDIFF**

# EARN SOME SPACE



**ABOVE:** First-half scorer Guly Do Prado.

**LEFT:** David Connolly celebrates his goal.

ball, stretching the play out wide and hoping to find an opening, but a bit of intent had faded from their work as well as they looked increasingly comfortable.

However, they did manage to bag a second goal that looked to have wrapped up the points even with only 65 minutes gone.

Harding, out on the right, cut back on to his left foot and chipped in a cross and Connolly's diagonal run across the area saw him get in front of his man and coolly finish for 2-0.

Forest responded with their first change with Paul Anderson replacing McGugan.

Saints were forced into a switch shortly afterwards with Do Prado limping off clutching the back of his left leg and Lee Holmes coming on in his place to partner Connolly in attack.

Robbie Findlay was then introduced for Forest for Harewood.

Saints were just doing what they had to do - keeping the

reduced to ten men five minutes after the restart.

Chambers was shown a straight red for what appeared to be an elbow that floored Connolly.

There was a flare up in the centre of the pitch and a heated argument about it that even spread to the benches, with the two managers and coaching staffs debating the decision with some ferocity.

The upshot was Forest switching to a 4-5-1 formation.

You got the feeling they might be happy to get men behind the ball and try and keep it at 1-0 for a late salvo in the closing stages.

Do Prado had a chance to scupper that plan but blasted wide after a decent ball in from the left.

The game continued with Forest showing very little attacking intent as they dropped deep.

Saints were just doing what they had to do - keeping the



**BATTLING FOR THE BALL:** Morgan Schneiderlin, above, and Dean Hammond, below.



but only picked out Camp from the edge of the area.

Forest made a final change on 76 minutes with former Saint Dexter Blackstock replacing Tudgay.

Schneiderlin didn't only threaten another goal three minutes later, he actually delivered one.

It seemed like a speculative effort as he shaped to shoot some 30 yards out but it flew off his boot and skipped past Camp, diving low to his right, to make it 3-0.

Saints made their second change with five minutes remaining as Danny Butterfield came on for Harding at right back.

By that stage both sides knew which way the result was going and only some acrobatic saves from Camp denied Holmes and Hammond.

Ben Reeves came on for Lallana in injury time and got a few minutes of action before the referee blew his whistle to confirm a good Saints win.

## Top drawer, says Adkins

NIGEL Adkins hailed a "top drawer" performance as Saints defeated Nottingham Forest 3-0 to strengthen their position at the top of the Championship table.

Goals from Guly do Prado, David Connolly and Morgan Schneiderlin secured the victory at The City Ground against a Forest side who had Luke Chambers sent off early in the second half for striking Connolly.

Adkins said: "I thought the lads were top drawer.

"We've come away from home, kept a clean sheet, made sure we grind it out and played some really good football.

"We scored three, should have scored more and controlled the game from my point of view.

"The talking point is always going to be the sending off but I thought we were in the ascendancy anyway.

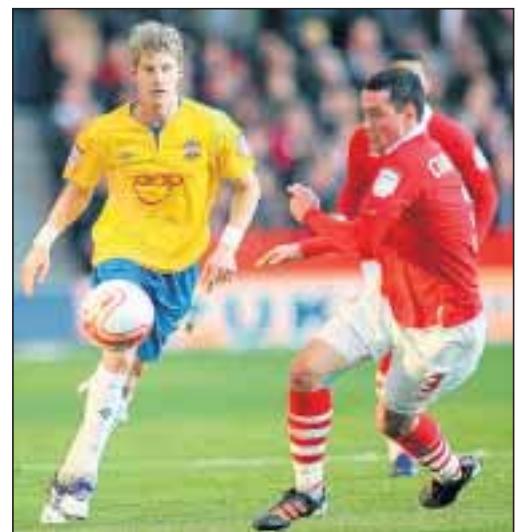
"The four midfield players were outstanding, they passed the ball about and with Cork and Lallana coming off the pocket and the fluency of movement was great and that was linked in with David Connolly who I thought was outstanding.

"He scored a good goal, Guly scored a good goal and Morgan.

"I keep saying we've got to score more goals from midfield and he's gone and let fly and it's a really good goal.

"Look at Dean Hammond and Corky, they've had some shots from distance as well."

**BELOW:** Dan Harding chases down the ball.



**TURN TO BACK PAGE FOR LATEST CHAMPIONSHIP STANDINGS**

# Saints Spotlight

## Window is open goal for Adkins

### A VIEW FROM THE STANDS

with Saints fan Dan Kerins



AS FAR as transfer windows go, this one has been very quiet so far.

In terms of deals – well, they always seem to be left to fairly late on anyway – there just aren't the same number of potential moves being bandied around.

This isn't just a Saints thing, of course. It extends throughout the pyramid with very few deals in the offing.

Last January wasn't the most lively either, but it did go crazy at the end with the Torres and Carroll deals which quite simply sent the world mad.

I can't but help but think this does provide Saints with an open goal when it comes to bringing in the necessary depth to see the side through to April.

A lack of competition in the transfer market will mean less chance of players' prices being inflated in a bidding war – resulting in Nigel Adkins getting more bang for his buck.

Now, some clubs may ask for big, big cash in the first place (see Saints' attempts to sign Maynard or Rodriguez as examples) but that just means a little more digging and searching needs to be done.

The majority seem to agree that Saints need more faces up front and out wide and probably an extra player in the centre of defence.

To improve upon players like Lambert or Fonte would mean big money and quite frankly isn't needed – that's where we need cover as we are beyond the bare bones when they are out.

A new wide player – seeing as Puncheon is well and truly out of the question it would seem

– is a key addition, as without Chaplow's tendency to get in front of the forwards, creating space, our attacks lack the bite they had a couple of months ago.

Now, some fans seem to think Saints won't do a deal if the media get wind of it. That, by and large is not the case – first off, it makes very little difference if a potential deal is reported in the gossip pages and secondly so many people are involved in these deals you can't stop everyone from saying something.

People are keen to talk, for whatever reason.

For example, I can't think of one Saints signing from the summer that wasn't reported in some shape or form prior to being completed. To cancel a deal just because the *Daily Echo*, *The Mirror* or even someone on Twitter had written ten words about it would be cutting off your nose to spite your face.

This doesn't mean every single rumour is a serious bid (or even true, sometimes people just like to try and wind you up for some reason) but there is usually something in it.

Which brings us back to how quiet it is so far this January.

I'm sure Saints are trying to bring in players – Tadanari Lee looks like he has potential although I refuse to get excited about players I haven't seen, after the Delgado debacle in 2001 – that will provide the extra impetus to see us competing for the title in April.

But hey, we're football fans. We're impatient!

# MONEY MAY BE



SAINTS TARGET:  
Celtic's Gary Hooper.

## Valuation of Hooper is 'way off' say Celtic

Gordon Simpson

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IT IS becoming increasingly apparent that Tadanari Lee might not be the only striker moving to St Mary's this month.

The Japanese international, pictured below, is due to officially sign for the club this week – but isn't the only forward player on the club's radar.

Celtic boss Neil Lennon has confirmed that Saints have again made an approach for the Glasgow side's exciting frontman, Gary Hooper.

There have even been reports that the club have been willing to pay £6m for the former Scunthorpe player, who worked with Nigel Adkins during their time together at Glanford Park.

But Lennon is adamant Hooper, who had scored 15 times this season going into this weekend, isn't going anywhere.

"There has been another enquiry for Hooper this week," he revealed.

"But the valuation of that club and our valuation is some way off."

"I've no idea if Southampton will come back in. But they will get the same answer – that he's not for sale."

"Goalscorers are priceless. If you look at Gary's record in his time here, he's got a goal in every one-and-a-half games."

"He was one of the leading scorers in the Championship. When I went to see him he stood out like a sore thumb."

### 'Good business'

"I think it's been good business and he's enjoying life here and enjoying his football."

Saints have been linked with numerous strikers ever since the summer.

First there was Billy Sharp, who turned down a move south from Doncaster after the clubs had agreed a fee.

Then there was the pursuit of Burnley's Jay Rodriguez, when Saints were met by stern resistance



**FOREST v SAINTS MATCH REACTION AND ANALYSIS IN MONDAY'S DAILY ECHO**

## Saints Spotlight

# THE STICKING POINT



**ON THEIR WAY:** Saints celebrate after Guly do Prado puts them ahead in the first half against Nottingham Forest at The City Ground this afternoon.

from the Clarets, who steadfastly refused to sell.

MK Dons forward Sam Baldock was next, but he opted to join West Ham instead.

Before the emergency loan window closed in November, attention turned to Coventry's Lukas Jutkiewicz – a former youth team player at Saints.

But the club were unable to agree a deal with the Sky Blues.

And he is completely off the table now, with promotion rivals Middlesbrough having completed his signing in the last 24 hours, initially on an emergency loan, before signing permanently next week, to allow him to make his debut today.

That leaves Saints beginning to run low on options in terms of proven Championship scorers.

Watford's Marvin Sordell, a player the club have had an interest in, remains available, although the Hornets are far from keen to lose the 20-year-old and it would likely take a major bid to prise him away from Vicarage Road.

### Unknown quantity

Lee should sign his contract this week, but remains an unknown quantity.

An international for his country, and one of the top scorers in the J-League last season, means he can hardly be short on talent.

But how dependable he will be in his first half-season in English football, as he adapts to a new way of life, remains to be seen.

It is certainly a big question mark,

as Saints look for immediate help in their promotion bid.

It seems clear from the interest in Hooper that Adkins would like a more proven player on these shores to supplement Lee's arrival.

That's hardly surprising given how reliant the team has been on Rickie Lambert.

And there have undoubtedly been concerns about how effective the club's other strikers have been when playing independently of the Championship's top scorer.

But at least at Nottingham Forest today they showed that their attack isn't completely blunted without their leading marksman.

With Lambert serving the second match in a three-game suspension, for his red card at Brighton earlier this month, Adkins opted for the

pairing of Guly do Prado and David Connolly in attack.

While their lack of playing time together meant they were never likely to dovetail wonderfully throughout the entire match, they linked up more than well enough for Saints' purposes.

Both were in fact involved in the opening goal, with Guly firing home the rebound after Connolly's initial effort from Jack Cork's cutback had been saved by Forest keeper Lee Camp.

### Devastating finisher

In Lambert's absence, Connolly attracted an increased physical presence around him – with Forest captain Luke Chambers seeing red for a supposed elbow on him within

minutes of the second half starting.

Guly had a good chance moments later to double the lead, but blazed over with his left foot from a good position after being picked out by Adam Lallana's low cross.

Connolly, who has always been a devastating finisher, made no mistake when he was afforded an opportunity midway through the half.

A ricochet off Morgan Schneiderlin from Dan Harding's ball into the box found him, and he beat Camp with a good reaction effort from close range to make it 2-0.

The goalscoring exploits of Adkins' front pair will have provided the manager with encouragement that, if he is unsuccessful in his pursuit of another striker, he has plenty of quality in attack already in his ranks.

## QUOTES OF THE WEEK

It's the greatest goal, in my opinion, I have ever seen with my eyes because just the technical part of it - to beat six players, to skip past people, left-foot, right-foot, cut-back, accelerate, everything that was involved in it, it was an unbelievable goal" - Newcastle boss Alan Pardew gets carried away with Hatem Ben Arfa's equaliser in Newcastle's 2-1 FA Cup win over Blackburn.

"As a football club, we must look forwards now and try our utmost to attain Premiership status for next season. 'The king is dead.....'" - QPR midfielder Joey Barton takes to Twitter following the sacking of manager Neil Warnock.

"As a player, as a manager, you want to make a mark on the game, and in my view this is a fantastic opportunity to be able to do that" - New QPR boss Mark Hughes sees a big future at the club.

"It's kind of weird. I came back from holiday 15 days ago. I never thought I was going to play for Arsenal again or score a winner. I don't know what to say. I love the club and I hope I can do more" - Thierry Henry, pictured, after scoring the winner on his second Arsenal debut, a 1-0 win over Leeds in the FA Cup.

"It was a little bit of a dream, because it was a story about football you would tell some young children. Unfortunately it is not often like that in our game, but sometimes it happens" - Arsenal boss Arsene Wenger.

"If I buy a Fiat Uno, I read that a guy like me would be more suited to a Ferrari. If I buy the Ferrari, I read that I should have been more down to earth and bought the Uno. If I laugh, I'm not serious; if I don't laugh, I'm a sulky rich guy who doesn't enjoy doing the best job in the world" - Manchester City striker Mario Balotelli, pictured, on his treatment by the media.

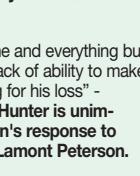
"Unfortunately (it's a penalty) to every man, but not a woman. Although the referee didn't have a good view, I thought the lineswoman, or whatever she's called, had a great view" - Ipswich manager Paul Jewell takes his frustrations out on referee's assistant Amy Fearn after his side lose to Birmingham.

"It is about a new era for English rugby. I always felt that January 2012 was going to be a defining moment about where we are going in the future" - England's interim coach Stuart Lancaster after naming his much-changed EPS squad for the Six Nations.

"It surprises me because he had a go at Wayne Rooney. Now he's had a go at one of ours" - Steven Gerrard, right, questions Manchester City boss Roberto Mancini for his criticism of opposition players.

"Khan blames everyone and everything but his performance and lack of ability to make adjustments in the ring for his loss" - Boxing trainer Barry Hunter is unimpressed by Amir Khan's response to losing to his charge Lamont Peterson.

"I'm sure there are players out there who are sleeping at home and thinking, 'Will I be caught?'. This kid's been caught. How many players are out there who are getting away with it?" - Former England captain Michael Vaughan paints a worrying picture after former Essex player Mervyn Westfield pleads guilty to spot-fixing.



# Saints Spotlight

**Saints wideman torments Pompey in derby victory**

# ROWE IS THE WING COMMANDER



**STAR MAN:** Omar Rowe, right, in action for Saints under-18s against Pompey.

Daily Echo pictures  
by Matt Watson

**Simon Walter**

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**SAINTS Under-18s beat Pompey 2-0 in the FA Premier Academy League – with a weakened side.**

Manager Jason Dodd rested most of the team that beat Bolton 2-1 in the FA Youth Cup on Tuesday night, making nine changes.

But even with several under-16s, Saints triumphed with two second-half goals against a poor Pompey side.

Like the recent 'Elclasico' at Fratton Park, this Hampshire derby was low on quality and high on passion.

But winger Omar Rowe impressed on the flanks for Saints at the Wellington Sports Ground on Stoneham Lane, Eastleigh.

The 17-year-old gave Pompey an early warning of the threat he posed when he crashed a free kick against the angle of post and crossbar.

Jason McCarthy's thunderous drive was too powerful for Pompey's goalkeeper to hold, clawed over the crossbar for a corner.

Highly-rated Saints goalkeeper Steve Mowthorpe, who comes from Portsmouth, spent the 90 minutes on the bench against his hometown club.

But in his absence 16-year-old Chris Johns impressed between the sticks, tipping behind a cross-cum-shot during an otherwise forgettable first half.

Shortly after the break, the Northern Irishman was called into action again, tipping over a fine effort from Pompey's Jack Malone.

But Saints soon took the lead with a set-piece goal.

Centre-back Jordan Turnbull stepped up from the heart of defence to head in the opener from Rowe's centre.

Substitute Jake Sinclair threat-



**BATTLE FOR THE BALL:** Saints scorer Dominic Gape in the middle of a tussle for possession.

ened to score after coming on for fellow striker Aaron Ward-Baptiste in the second half.

The highly-rated younger brother of Swansea City star Scott Sinclair embarked on a jinking run before shooting over the bar.

Then Dominic Gape secured the points, which help Saints maintain the pressure on Arsenal at the top of the table.

A 17-year-old midfielder from Weymouth, Gape has already been with Saints for a decade and he slipped the ball home after a clever pass from the diminutive Rowe, a former West Ham schoolboy who qualifies for Jamaica.

The result ensures that Saints maintain the pressure on Arsenal at the top of Group A.

Saints: Chris Johns, Matt Young (capt), Conor O'Sullivan, Jason McCarthy, Bevis Mugabi, Jordan Turnbull (Fraser Colman), Dan Bowman (Gregory Arribi), Dominic Gape, Aaron Ward-Baptiste (Jake Sinclair), Harrison Reed, Omar Rowe.  
Subs not used: Steve Mowthorpe (gk), Joe Curtis.



**HEAD TO HEAD:** Harrison Reed goes up for a high ball.

## Saints' cup wait

**SAINTS Under-18s will discover their FA Youth Cup fifth-round opponents on Thursday night.**

Goals from Corby Moore and Jake Sinclair helped Saints come from behind to beat Bolton Wanderers 2-1 at the Reebok Stadium on Tuesday night.

It booked them a place in the fifth round at home to Nottingham Forest or Wigan on February 11.

Forest host Wigan at the City Ground on Thursday.

Saints trailed at the break at the Reebok, but Moore's outstanding near-post header cancelled out Bolton's opener, a header from centre-back Oscar Threlkeld.

Sinclair, a threat all evening, then scored the winner after an outstanding run from Jack Stephens.

Portsmouth host Swansea in the FA Youth Cup fourth round on Wednesday night.



# Fancy That!

THIERRY Henry completed a fairytale comeback for Arsenal earlier this week when he scored the winner to knock Leeds out of the FA Cup.

Here, the Sports Pink takes a look at five other players who made a success of their return to former clubs.

**JOHAN CRUYFF** (Ajax, 1964-73, 81-83)

The legendary Holland forward was 34 by the time he made his second debut for Ajax after winning three European Cups in his nine-year first spell in Amsterdam. His talent was not diminished, though, as he added two league titles and a Dutch Cup to his honours.

**MARK HUGHES** (Manchester United, 1980-86, 88-95)

Hughes surprisingly left Manchester United for an unsuccessful season at Barcelona in 1986. He was brought back to Old Trafford, following time on loan at Bayern Munich, by Sir Alex Ferguson in 1988 and went on to win two Premier League titles, two FA Cups, the League Cup and the Cup Winners' Cup in a trophy-laden second spell.

**IAN RUSH** (Liverpool, 1980-87, 88-96)

Another Welsh striker who had an unhappy season overseas, Rush returned to Liverpool from Juventus in 1988. Having won four league titles, the FA Cup, four League Cups and the European Cup in his first spell on Merseyside, his second was almost as prolific as he won another league title, two more FA Cups and a further League Cup.

**TEDDY SHERINGHAM** (Tottenham, 1992-97, 2001-03)

The evergreen former striker's two spells in north London sandwiched four years at Manchester United in which he famously won the treble in 1999. His form on his return to White Hart Lane won him an England recall under Sven Goran-Eriksson and a place in the 2002 World Cup squad aged 36.

**JUNINHO** (Middlesbrough, 1995-97, 1999-2000 [loan], 2002-2004)

The diminutive Brazilian midfielder seemed a bizarre fit for Boro, but enjoyed his time on Teesside so much he returned twice. His tears on relegation in his first spell endeared him to the fans and he sealed his legendary status in his final season as, by now a World Cup winner, he helped the club win the League Cup.



## WELL, that's the last time I go away for Christmas.

Three weeks in the land of Oz and Southampton's season goes all to pot.

We lose our unbeaten home league record in the last game of 2011 and get a thumping away at Brighton... it's a calamity!

Or is it?

A quick look at the stats for 2011 and far from the disaster we seem to be looking for Southampton's 2011 is an absolute triumph.

A table of the top performing English football clubs in 2011 shows Saints to be the fourth most successful club in terms of league results, amassing a staggering average of 2.04 points per game.

Only Crawley Town, Manchester City and Manchester United fared better.

No club scored more goals than us in 2011.

When you look at cold hard stats such as those, it may put our current slump into perspective.

We were operating at an unsustainable level.

No club could carry on winning as many games as we were.

A slump (if that's what you want to call it) was inevitable.

What Saints do need to do is strengthen in 2012.

We're in a position that Pompey fans can only dream of, we've had a run of less than impressive results – and yet we're still top.

The sign of champions, and you can ask any Brighton fan this, is the ability to lose, play poorly, and still remain ahead of your competitors.

What Southampton Football Club has to do now is back up their talk of ambition with cold, hard cash.

The money is there, from the sale

**We're in a position Pompey fans can only dream of, but we need new players**



of Alex Oxlade Chamberlain, and the time has come to invest some of it to bolster the promotion push.

The latter part of 2011 has shown us many things.

It's showed us just how magnificent a footballer Ricky Lambert is.

It's showed us that Adam Lallana was rushed back to first team action as he's not the same player he was in September.

It's showed us you cannot underestimate the influence of Richard Chaplow in the squad, and that Kelvin Davis will be our number one choice goalkeeper for quite some time.

But there's nothing in the last month's worth of results that signal any kind of collapse or derailing of our promotion bid.

We've still only lost one game at home this season and only two clubs have scored more than us away from home.

If we can keep the form at home



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**EMAIL YOUR VIEWS ON SAINTS TO echosport@dailyecho.co.uk**

# BEAUTIFUL SOUTH

BY DAREN WHEELER



**Don't write off our Japanese boy too early!**

tight and start to pick up more points away, then there's no reason whatsoever that this can't be a sensational 2012.

The January transfer window is the key.

Unlike many other clubs, Saints can look to strengthen rather than weaken the squad.

We're in an enviable position in so much as we have money and many of our rivals don't.

West Ham may be a bigger club but, with the Olympic stadium on the horizon, do they have money to burn, or will bids from Premier League clubs weaken their resolve to hold on to their stars?

The problem we have as football fans is that we'll only look at our weaknesses and not others.

Other clubs can get injuries, other clubs can lose players to the lure of the Premiership.

Southampton are not the only club to be affected by the January transfer window.

Last year it gave us a timely boost and aided our League One promotion bid no end.

Jordan Rhodes would be a blinding signing.

For those of us who witnessed his five-goal blitz against Wycombe, it showed him to be the real deal. And, as Lambert has proven, League One players can cut it in the Championship with no problems.

## Exciting

Nicky Maynard is available and also looks an exciting prospect.

The list is sadly not endless, though.

It's now a case of quality over quantity and we should only buy if we can improve, or seriously bolster, the squad.

Panic buying is sooooooo three years ago.

In closing, a warm welcome to Tadanari Lee, Southampton's very first Japanese player.

It took all of ten minutes from the announcement of his signing for the internet doomsayers to have written him off.

With Japan ranked 19th in the FIFA world rankings, I can only ask myself if those same doomsayers would write off a player from Scotland, ranked at 47 or one from Wales, ranked at 48?

Would we question a player from Nigeria, ranked at 43, or a player from the Republic of Ireland, ranked at 22?

The truth of the matter is that none of us know if Tadanari will be a success or a failure.

His national side is ranked higher than many countries of whom we'd ask no questions of if we'd signed one of their players.

All that matters is that hopefully Tadanari is the first of three or four players that will hopefully either make an instant impact on the first team or make the bench a darn sight more competitive than it currently is.

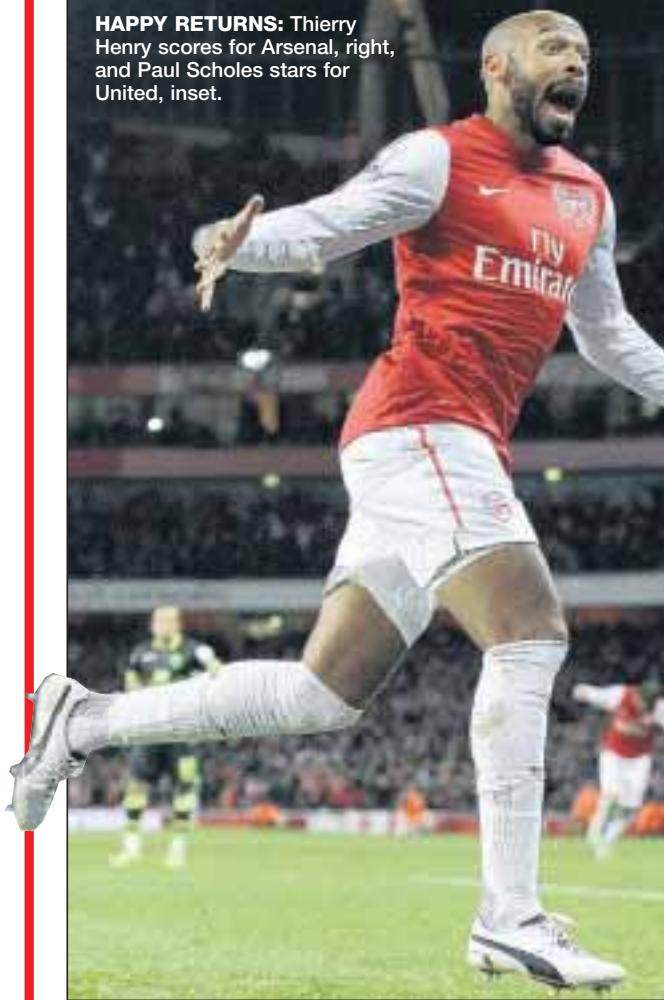
Onwards and upwards, people. 2011 was sensational, and who's to say 2012 won't be an absolute belter...

# Paine's World

The Saints legend's **EXCLUSIVE** column on all things football



**HAPPY RETURNS:** Thierry Henry scores for Arsenal, right, and Paul Scholes stars for United, inset.



## GOLDEN OLDIES STILL SHINE



### IT might not exactly have been the Return of the Jedi.

But the sight of both Paul Scholes and Thierry Henry disappearing into the sunset, their Premier League days over, never to be seen again, was transformed in a remarkable way in the third round of the FA Cup.

These golden oldies, who had given so much to both Manchester United and Arsenal, were recalled in their clubs' hour of need.

For Sir Alex Ferguson, the decision to reintroduce the 37-year-old Scholes was a gamble of huge consequences.

Had United lost at their noisy neighbours, Manchester City, Ferguson's decision to recall his midfield maestro would have quickened talk of the Old Trafford manager losing his touch.

But victory was theirs. Certainly,



**PUSH OFF:**  
Referee Chris Foy explains his decision to the teams after sending off Manchester City's Vincent Kompany.

Ferguson and United, coming off two successive losses in the Premier League, needed the result more than City.

For City, though, they must now say goodbye to the FA Cup, which represented their first major trophy in 35 years when they won it last May.

The controversial decision of referee Chris Foy to send off City captain Vincent Kompany early on in the match for a tackle on Nani has reverberated throughout the game this week.

Sitting in our studios in Johannesburg, my first reaction was that it was a harsh decision.

However, my fellow commentators Gary Bailey, the former Manchester

United keeper, and Andre Arendse, the ex-Fulham and Oxford keeper, believed it to be correct.

We quickly found FIFA's Rule 12 – Fouls and Misconduct – and even then still argued in regard to the ruling.

In my opinion, the decision was wrong.

And that view was backed up by Tommy Docherty, who described the call as a "diabolical" one.

The injustice was emphasised on Wednesday night when Glen Johnson's two-footed tackle on Joleon Lescott went unpunished to the disbelief of all the City fans at the Etihad Stadium.

With tempers rising, it led to an angry confrontation between City manager Roberto Mancini and Liverpool's

Steven Gerrard in the tunnel after the game.

This has highlighted the inconsistency of referees in the modern game.

My worry is that the physical side of football is gradually being eroded.

Where exactly this leaves the game I'm not sure.

What I do know, though, is that come April, if Manchester United and Manchester City are running neck and neck for the Premier League title, the second-to-last match on the calendar – on April 28 to be exact – between these giants at the Etihad Stadium will not only be the 163rd derby between them.

It will surely match the Clasico that describes the Spanish rivalry between Real Madrid and Barcelona.

## Hail Henry the 227th!

IT TOOK just ten minutes for Thierry Henry to stamp his class on his return to Arsenal.

With the Gunners leaving top scorer Robin van Persie out of the lineup for the FA Cup third round match against Leeds at the Emirates Stadium, it needed Henry to seal the win.

Arsenal, as usual, huffed and puffed a lot in their efforts to break Leeds' stubborn resistance.

So on strolled Henry to show his teammates how to take chances when they come their way.

Latching onto Alex Song's pass, it was obvious his first touch has not deserted him, as he set himself to side foot home into the far corner of the Leeds goal.

Form might be temporary, but class is permanent.

The strike took Henry's tally for the club to 227 goals, and it is hard to imagine he has not pulled on an Arsenal shirt since he departed in 2007.

Henry, for me, is one of the best foreign players ever to grace the English game.

I rank him alongside the likes of Eric Cantona, Dennis Bergkamp and Gianfranco Zola, who have left a major mark on the English scene.

So where does this leave manager Arsene Wenger, regarding his team selection?



**BACK IN THE OLD ROUTINE:** Thierry Henry nets for Arsenal against Leeds.

The 34-year-old Henry has potentially eight games to play in his loan spell from New York Red Bulls.

And, with positive vibes reverberating around the Emirates, all Arsenal fans will be hoping that he pairs up with Van Persie, whose 35 goals in 2011 made for an extraordinary record.

Van Persie is sure to return to the team for tomorrow's away game against Swansea.

Arsenal head into this weekend in fifth spot, one point adrift of fourth-placed Chelsea and 12 behind leaders Manchester City going into the latest round of fixtures.

There is already an almighty scramble for the top four positions to guarantee Champions League football next season.

And Henry's presence could be just the tonic that Arsenal need.

Who's to say that Henry, whose 174 goals make him the third top scorer in Premier League history, will not add to his tally before heading back to New York?

# Saints Spotlight

## SAINTS' FIRST TEAM FIXTURES AND RESULTS 2011/12

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
<b>AUGUST</b>														
Sat 6 Leeds .....	H	W 3-1	Davis	Richardson	Fonte	Martin	Harding	Do Prado**	Hammond*** 1	Cork	Lallana 1	Lambert	Connolly* 1	Chaplow**
Tues 9 Torquay (CC1).....	H	W 4-1	Bialkowski	Butterfield	Seaborne	Martin	Dickson	De Ridder** 1	Chaplow 1	Schneiderlin	Holmes*	Lambert 1	Do Prado***	Hammond**
Sat 13 Barnsley .....	A	W 1-0	Davis	Richardson	Fonte	Seaborne	Harding	Do Prado*	Hammond	Cork	Lallana**	Lambert 2	Connolly** 1	Chaplow*
Tues 16 Ipswich .....	A	W 5-2	Davis	Richardson	Fonte	Seaborne	Harding	Do Prado*	Hammond	Cork	Lallana** 2	Lambert	Connolly**	Hammond*
Sat 20 Millwall .....	H	W 1-0	Davis	Richardson*	Fonte	Seaborne	Harding	Do Prado 1	Hammond*	Cork	Lallana**	Lambert	Connolly 1	Schneiderlin*
Sat 27 Leicester .....	A	L 2-3	Davis	Richardson	Fonte	Seaborne	Harding*** 1	Do Prado**	Hammond	Cork	Lallana	Forte* 1	Do Prado*** 1	Hammond**
Tues 30 Swindon (CC2)....	A	W 3-1	Bialkowski	Richardson	Seaborne	Martin	Harding	Holmes**	Schneiderlin	Cork	Lallana	Lambert 3	Connolly**	Chaplow*
<b>SEPTEMBER</b>														
Sat 10 Nottm Forest .....	H	W 3-2	Davis	Cork	Fonte	Hooiveld	Fox	Do Prado*	Hammond	Hammond	Lallana 1	Lambert 3	Connolly**	Chaplow*
Sun 18 Birmingham .....	H	W 4-1	Davis	Richardson	Fonte	Hooiveld	Fox	Do Prado* 1	Hammond	Cork**	Lallana*** 1	Lambert 1	Connolly**	Chaplow* 1
Wed 21 Preston (CC3) .....	H	W 2-1	Bialkowski	Butterfield	Martin	Hooiveld** 1	Dickson	De Ridder*	Hammond	Chaplow	Holmes*	Reeves	Forte***	Schneiderlin* 1
Sat 24 Burnley .....	A	D 1-1	Davis	Richardson	Fonte	Hooiveld	Fox	Do Prado*	Hammond	Cork	Lallana	Lambert	Connolly*	Chaplow*
Wed 28 Cardiff .....	A	L 1-2	Davis	Richardson	Fonte	Hooiveld	Fox	Do Prado	Schneiderlin	Cork**	Lallana	Lambert	Connolly*	Chaplow**
<b>OCTOBER</b>														
Sat 1 Watford .....	H	W 4-0	Davis	Richardson	Fonte	Hooiveld	Fox	De Ridder*	Hammond	Cork**	Lallana***	Lambert 2	Do Prado 1	Chaplow*
Sat 15 Derby .....	A	D 1-1	Davis	Richardson**	Fonte	Hooiveld	Fox	Do Prado**	Schneiderlin	Cork	Chaplow*	Lambert 1	Connolly	Schneiderlin**
Tues 18 West Ham .....	H	W 1-0	Davis	Richardson	Fonte	Hooiveld 1	Fox	Do Prado***	Hammond	Chaplow	Lallana*** 1	Lambert 3	Connolly**	Chaplow**
Sat 22 Reading .....	A	D 1-1	Davis	Richardson	Fonte*	Hooiveld	Fox	Do Prado***	Hammond	Cork	Holmes**	Lambert 1	Connolly**	Schneiderlin**
Tues 25 Crystal Palace (CC4) ..A	A	L 0-2	Bialkowski	Butterfield	Martin	Cork	Harding	De Ridder	Hammond	Chaplow	Lallana**	Lambert	Forte*	Chaplow*
Sat 29 Middlesbrough .....	H	W 3-0	Davis	Richardson	Fonte	Hooiveld	Fox	Chaplow	Hammond***	Cork	Lallana**	Lambert	Do Prado* 2	Schneiderlin**
<b>NOVEMBER</b>														
Tues 1 Peterborough .....	H	W 2-1	Davis	Richardson	Fonte	Hooiveld 1	Harding	Chaplow*** 1	Hammond	Schneiderlin	Lallana**	Lambert 2	Do Prado 1	Chaplow*
Sat 5 Coventry .....	A	W 4-2	Davis	Richardson	Fonte	Hooiveld	Fox	Chaplow* 1	Cork	Schneiderlin	Chaplow*	Lambert 1	Connolly	Schneiderlin**
Sat 19 Brighton .....	H	W 3-0	Davis	Richardson	Fonte	Hooiveld	Fox	Chaplow	Hammond	Cork	Lallana** 1	Lambert 3	Connolly**	Chaplow** 1
Sat 26 Bristol City .....	A	L 0-2	Davis	Richardson	Fonte	Hooiveld	Fox	Chaplow	Hammond	Cork	Lallana**	Lambert 3	Connolly**	Schneiderlin**
Tues 29 Hull .....	H	W 2-1	Davis	Richardson	Fonte	Hooiveld	Harding	Schneiderlin	Hammond	Cork*	Lallana**	Lambert	Do Prado*** 1	Chaplow*
<b>DECEMBER</b>														
Sat 3 Doncaster .....	A	L 0-1	Davis	Richardson	Fonte	Hooiveld	Fox	De Ridder*	Hammond	Cork**	Lallana**	Lambert 2	Do Prado*	Chaplow*
Sat 10 Blackpool .....	H	D 2-2	Bialkowski	Richardson	Fonte	Hooiveld	Fox**	Schneiderlin	Hammond	Cork	Lallana**	Lambert 2	Connolly	Hammond**
Sun 18 Portsmouth .....	A	D 1-1	Davis	Richardson	Fonte	Hooiveld	Fox*	Schneiderlin	Hammond	Cork	Lallana**	Lambert 1	Connolly**	Harding*
Mon 26 Crystal Palace .....	H	W 2-0	Davis	Richardson***	Fonte	Hooiveld	Fox	De Ridder*	Hammond	Cork	Lallana**	Lambert	Do Prado 2	Connolly*
Fri 30 Bristol City .....	H	L 0-1	Davis	Richardson	Fonte	Martin	Fox	Schneiderlin	Hammond	Cork	Lallana**	Lambert	Do Prado	Hammond**
<b>JANUARY</b>														
Mon 2 Brighton .....	A	L 0-3	Davis	Richardson	Fonte	Hooiveld	Harding*	Do Prado**	Hammond	Cork	Lallana**	Lambert	Connolly	Holmes**
Sat 7 Coventry (FAC 3) ..A	A	W 2-1	Bialkowski	Harding***	Martin	Martin 1	Fox	Schneiderlin	Hammond	Cork	W-Prowse** 1	Lallana	Doble*	De Ridder**
Sat 14 Notts Forest .....	A												Fox*	Reeves**
Mon 23 Leicester .....	H												Hoskins*	Reeves*** Stephens**
Tues 31 Cardiff .....	H													
<b>FEBRUARY</b>														
Sat 4 Birmingham .....	A													
Sat 11 Burnley .....	H													
Tues 14 West Ham .....	A													
Sat 18 Derby .....	H													
Sat 25 Watford .....	A													
<b>MARCH</b>														
Sat 3 Leeds .....	A													
Tues 6 Ipswich .....	H													
Sat 10 Barnsley .....	H													
Sat 17 Millwall .....	A													
Tues 20 Hull .....	A													
Sat 24 Doncaster .....	H													
Sat 31 Blackpool .....	A													
<b>APRIL</b>														
Sat 7 Portsmouth .....	H													
Mon 9 Crystal Palace ..A	A													
Sat 14 Reading .....	H													
Tues 17 Peterborough ..A	A													
Sat 21 Middlesbrough ..A	A													
Sat 28 Coventry .....	H													



## Charity boost

THE Saints Disabled Supporters Association presented the Saints Foundation with a cheque for £300 before the recent home game against Bristol City.

Last July, the organisation held their inaugural AGM at the stadium and an open day at the Dell Cafe.

A charity auction and raffle raised more than £600, of which half that sum was given to the Saints Foundation.

This money was used to help fund a group of disabled children and their carers to visit and play at Barcelona.

Photo shows (back, from left) Tom Barrett (Saints Foundation), Greg Dickson (secretary, SDSA), Lyn Knight (treasurer, SDSA) Elaine Brindley, Tony (SFC Steward).

Front: Andy Mather (chairman, SDSA) Lee Barclay (vice chairman, SDSA).

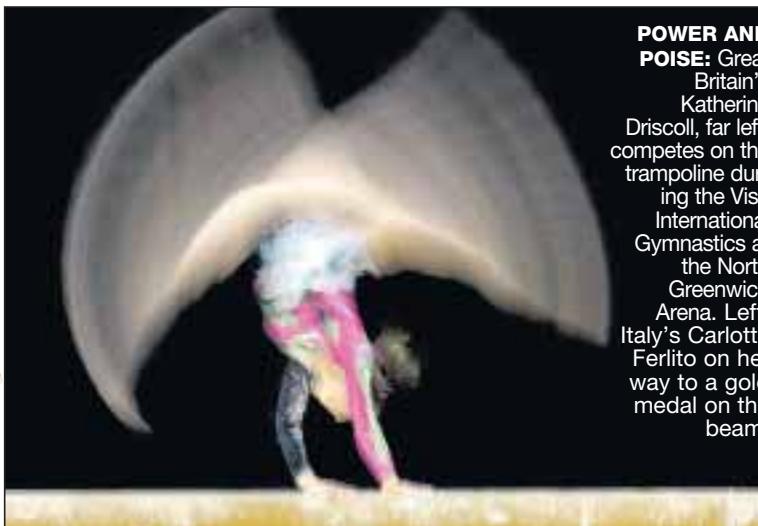
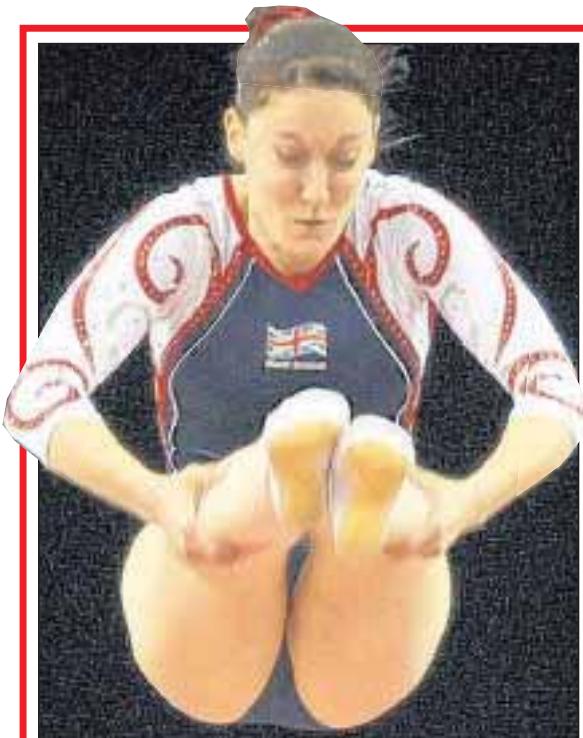
	LA	LG	CA	CG	CSA	CSG		LA	LG	CA	CG	CSA	CSG							
KELVIN DAVIS	24	0	0	0	253	0	STEVE DE RIDDER	4(18)	3	3	1	7(18)	4	RYAN DOBLE	0	0	1	0	1	0
BARTOSZ BIALKOWSKI	1	0	5	0	39(1)	0	RICHARD CHAPLOW	8(7)	3	2	1	37(10)	6	DANNY FOX	17(4)	0	1	0	18(4)	0
TOMMY FORECAST	0	0	0	0	0	0	DEAN HAMMOND	20(4)	1	1(2)	0	116(7)	11	JOS HOOIVLED	20	2	2	1	22	3
DANNY BUTTERFIELD	1	0	3	0	40(3)	0	JACK CORK	23(2)	0	3	0	50(3)	0	JAMES WARD-PROWSE	0	0	2	0	2	0
FRAZER RICHARDSON	23	0	1	0	41(7)	0	MORGAN SCHNEIDERLIN	12(12)	1	5	0	113(27)	2	SAM HOSKINS	0	0	0(2)	0	0(2)	0
DAN HARDING	8(4)	1	3	0	104(7)	5	ADAM LALLANA	22	6	2(2)	1	1154(19)	41	JACK STEPHENS	0	0	0(1)	0	0(1)	0
RYAN DICKSON	0	0	2	0	2	19(11)	1	LEE HOLMES	0(4)	1	4	0	21(19)	3						
BEN REEVES	0(1)	0	2(1)	0	2(2)	0	RICKIE LAMBERT	24	15	1(3)	2	132(6)	74							
JOSE FONTE	23	0	0(1)	0	95(1)	7	LEE BARNARD	0(4)	0	0(1)	0	44(25)	24							
RADHI JAIDI	0	0	0	0	67(1)	4	GULY DO PRADO	25	9	2(1)	1	54(13)	21							
AARON MARTIN	3(1)	0	5	0	16(5)	0	DAVID CONNOLLY	13(5)	5	0	0	33(26)	16							
DAN SEABORNE	4	0	2	0	35(15)	0	JONATHAN FORTE	0(1)	0	3(1)	2	5(10)	4							

KEY: LA: league appearances. LG: league goals. CA: cup appearances. CG: cup goals. CSA: career Saints appearances. CSG: career Saints goals.

# Adam Rant



This week's big talking points  
with **Adam Leitch**



# OUTPUT IS HIGH - BUT NOT THE INCOME

**FOOTBALL** might well be the nation's favourite pastime but there are plenty of reasons to suspect that many of its participants are overpaid for their talents compared to some sports.

Many members of the public have the wrong impression of most footballers.

On the whole they are a good bunch of guys, they do work hard and try, and they do not have lifestyles that make your eyes water.

But there is no doubt that, for the hours they put in and – aside from the guys playing for those sides at the very top – for the pressure they endure, they are well rewarded, particularly in the top two divisions.

Most people accept that the very best players in such a popular world game can earn movie star megabucks. And who would begrudge Messi or his ilk such a salary, given their standing?

What often sticks in the throat though are the fortunes earned by players with modest ability levels.

It is emphasised in the Premier League of course, where the starting wage for a senior player is likely to be a seven-figure sum over a year.

Drop down a division however across several continental European leagues and those amounts may dwindle to half of that.

But then so has your standing in the game.

When you are suddenly saying £500,000 yearly salaries, probably even more for many, are paid to somebody who might currently be, at best, the 2,000th best player in the world the mind does start to boggle.

It becomes even stranger when you see athletes in other sports who appear to have to work so much harder to compete at a comparatively higher level earn basically



nothing for their efforts. The thought crossed Adam Rant's mind once more this week when he had the pleasure of a trip up to the O2 Arena for an Olympics test event, namely women's gymnastics.

The fantastic venue was transformed as teams and individuals around the world competed for the final qualifying spots for London 2012.

To see these incredible competitors in action was remarkable.

In most sports you can at least work out how things are done, even if you have no chance of being able to repeat the skills yourself. That is somewhat harder in this sport.

Having only ever seen top level gymnastics on television, and even then not exactly had much of an interest, it was hard to explain just how remarkable the gymnasts were.

So strong, so supple, so athletic, such explosive power, yet contained in tiny packages that also boast such grace and elegance.

And so much versatility as the teams tackled the different disciplines of the vault, the beam, the bars and the floor routines.

It really was quite gripping to see in the flesh.

Of course, the argument for footballer's salaries, even those lower down, will be a capitalist one about supply and demand, and simple market economics, even if many believe the sport is operating in an economic bubble destined to burst.

The famous old quote 'football is not a matter of life and death, it's much more important than that' can be taken out of context to be given some sort of literal, almost biblical style importance. It's hard to take it too seriously when you see what else is out there.

**MILLIONAIRE:** Lionel Messi of Barcelona.

## Racket may keep us awake

IT'S a pretty exciting time of the year with the first tennis Grand Slam of the season now upon us.

The Australian Open is, quite selfishly, played at convenient times for those Down Under, which can make it hard to watch in

this country unless you suffer from insomnia.

But it will be fascinating to see what impact Ivan Lendl has had in his early days working with Andy Murray, whether Novak Djokovic will pick up the pace again after an injury-

and-fatigue-hit end to an amazing year.

Can Roger Federer fit another Grand Slam in his massive trophy cabinet and just what state will Rafa Nadal be in, both mentally and physically? Exciting times indeed.



**BIG HIT:** Rafa Nadal.

## Both feet in it ...

JUST to clear up something regarding the debate over various two-footed challenges – they are coward's tackles.

There is hardly a single occasion where a footballer needs to run and jump two-footed, leaving the ground, to challenge for a ball.

You may feel it is wrong to brand all such challenges as cowardly, and that might be fair, but it's no more wrong than branding them all sluggish.

They are not all designed to hurt an opponent, though that is a very real potential consequence. Some managers are right when they complain that an intent to injure is not in the nature of the player who did it, but that doesn't make it right.



**LUNGE:** Bristol Rovers' Craig Stanley goes flat out against Aston Villa's Stiliyan Petrov.

Most of these challenges are carried out because, in that split second of decision making, a player wants to try to make sure they don't get hurt.

Hurting through the air with great velocity and both legs extended and together means a very slim chance of getting injured. Sliding in with one leg on the ground leaves that limb, and your body, prone.

The two-footed tackle is a modern phenomena in the game.

It would be tempting to say you didn't get it when men were men etc.

But the football authorities are correct to have outlawed it and they must ensure that the tackle itself is removed from the game and not just any discussion over intent.

If that means brandishing more red cards until teams get the message then so be it.

## Big Test

AFTER a decent and much-needed break England get back into Test match action against Pakistan in the UAE next week.

They have climbed the summit to become world number one but there are already signs elsewhere that the likes of Australia are starting to rise again.

They say the easy bit is getting to the top, the hard part staying there.

The next year is going to be England's toughest test yet.

SOUTHERN  
**Daily Echo**

# FIND THE BALL

## THIS WEEK'S JACKPOT £26,000

or £2,000 nearest miss prize...

PLUS 70 consolation prizes of £15 each week

20 for Southern Daily Echo  
20 for Daily Echo Bournemouth  
10 for Dorset Echo  
10 for Sunday Independent  
10 for Brighton Argus

### RESULTS



**CLOSING DATE FOR POSTAL ENTRIES**  
Wednesday, 18 January 2012  
Names of winners will be published on Saturday, 21 January or Sunday 22 January 2012

### Winners

Competition number **SO1**

#### JACKPOT WINNER **NO WINNER**

##### CONGRATULATIONS

Mrs I Mehl, Southampton, Hants.  
who wins the Runner Up prize of £1,950

The following competitors each receive a consolation prize of £15

Mr P Blakely, Southampton, Hants  
Mr R Boyce, Southampton, Hants  
Mrs P Cole, Southampton, Hants  
Ms N Davis, Southampton, Hants  
Mrs E Depoix, Southampton, Hants  
Mrs D Elliott, Southampton, Hants  
Mr H Dugdale, Southampton, Hants  
Mrs M Dunne, Fareham, Hants  
Mrs J Gammon, Southampton, Hants  
Mr D Gibbons, Romsey, Hants

Mrs R Howard, Southampton, Hants  
Mrs J Jefferies, Southampton, Hants  
Mr D Johnston, Southampton, Hants  
Mr G Jones, Southampton, Hants  
Mrs P London, Southampton, Hants  
Mr K Merriman, Southampton, Hants  
Mrs M Mynett, Southampton, Hants  
Mrs A Pilcher, Southampton, Hants  
Mrs H Spencer, Southampton, Hants  
Mrs C Walsh, Southampton, Hants

### Rules

1. You are allowed a minimum of 60 crosses and a maximum of 325 per coupon. Coupons with 326 or more will be disqualified. Entries altered defaced or mutilated will be invalid. Crosses must be distinct and separate. 2. Competitors may submit as many coupons as they wish. Members of a family can send their entries in one envelope with a covering postal order or cheque. 3. No responsibility can be accepted for entries delayed, lost or mislaid. Proof of posting cannot be accepted as proof of delivery. 4. Payment may be made by postal order or cheque for the correct amount payable to Newsquest, and crossed ' & Co.' Stamps will not be accepted in payment. 5. A competitor cannot win more than one share of the prize money across all titles each week. 6. The Editor's decision on winning entry or entries and matters relating to this competition is binding in honour only. NO CORRESPONDENCE CAN BE ENTERED INTO. 7. Employees of NEWSQUEST Media Group and subsidiary companies and members of their families are not eligible to enter the competition. 8. Address entries to FTB PO Box 24 Competitions, Southampton SO16 9ZD in a sealed envelope. Understamped entries are not accepted. 9. Prize monies are held for and on behalf of winners. 10. Do not send cash in the post. 11. Winners will be required to participate in publicity. 12. Photocopies not accepted.



CUT ALONG DOTTED LINE ONLY

An incident in a Bournemouth match

An incident in a Southampton match

# Non-league Action

**EVO-STIK SOUTHERN LEAGUE : AFC Totton 2 Brackley 2**

# Osman earns point against the leaders

**AFC TOTTON** were held at home by Evo-stik Southern Premier leaders Brackley Town at the Testwood Stadium.

Michael CHARLES scored the fastest goal of the day when his chip from the edge of the area found the net after just 14 SECONDS, writes Simon Walter.

But a Stags side including two new signings found themselves 2-1 down midway through the second half against the only side above them in the Evo-stik Southern Premier.

Totton made three changes to the team that beat Chesham last week following the recent signings of Ross Bottomley, who made his Southern Premier debut alongside Nathan Campbell in central midfield, and Salisbury loanee Charlie Knight.

Top scorer Mike Gosney and fellow winger Jonathan Davies were both left out of the starting line-up.

Knight made his debut in place of Tom Baddeley at left-back, while Nathan Jack started on the left flank following his two-goal salvo as a substitute last week.

When Charles beat Brackley keeper Billy Turley from the kick off, the celebrations from a season's best league crowd of 654 could be heard a long way down Salisbury Rd.

Charles was lively early on and went close to doubling Totton's lead – but Brackley were level by the 40th minute.

Two saves in as many minutes from AFC Bourne-mouth loanee Dan Thomas prevented an earlier equaliser.

A diving Thomas tipped behind Elliot Sandy's 27th-minute effort. Within 60 sec-



**ON TARGET:** Michael Charles scores for Totton against Brackley, top, then celebrates in front of Totton fans.

Pictures: Stuart Martin.

onds, he palmed over Tom Marshall's header from the resulting corner.

But the 20-year-old goalkeeper could do nothing to prevent Brackley's new signing Glenn WALKER from scoring a stunning first goal for the club.

Signed from Southern

Premier rivals Banbury earlier this month, the winger cut on to his left foot before

firing an unstoppable drive into the far corner.

Totton defender Ian

## Wheeler hits late winner

**SOUTHAMPTON LEAGUE TROPHYMAN SENIOR LEAGUE CUP – QUARTER FINAL** (played at Wellands Ground Lyndhurst).

However WADS WILSON gave

Lyndhurst the equaliser just

before half-time.

In the second half Comrades

Richardson missed a glorious opportunity to restore the Stags' lead shortly before the break, putting Jack's cross the wrong side of the near post.

But there were few chances for Totton in the second half.

A thrilling run down the left flank from midway inside his own half gave Knight the chance to score a debut goal to remember, but he shot wide of the far post.

And in the 64th-minute, striker SANDY put Brackley ahead with a close-range header after Brett Solkhon's cross was headed back across goal.

Moments later, Solkhon missed the chance to extend Brackley's lead with a header of his own.

But Totton manager Stuart Ritchie, having signed a new contract 48 hours earlier – and having already introduced Mark Osman – threw on Gosney and Davies in the space of five minutes.

And in the 72nd minute he was rewarded when Gosney's cross from the left eventually found its way to OSMAN, who tapped in the equaliser at the far post.

But Totton had Cherries loanee Thomas to thank for a share of the spoils. An outstanding 87th-minute save denied Brackley's former Oxford United striker Jefferson Louis from close range.

Deep into injury time, right-back Ryan Hill's free-kick whistled narrowly wide. Totton remain four points behind Brackley, with three games in hand.

**AFC Totton:** Thomas, Hill, Knight, Richardson, Whisken, Campbell, Pettefer (Davies 70), Bottomley, Sherborne, Charles (Osman 61), Jack (Gosney 66). Subs not used: Brown, Baddeley.



**Salisbury suffer as York bag six goals**

**FA TROPHY  
SECOND ROUND  
PROPER**

**SALISBURY CITY 2  
YORK CITY 6**

AN over generous Whites defence combined with powerful opposition from the Blue Square Premier Division in York City saw the visitors romp to a 6-2 win over Salisbury City.

Two goals in a two-minute spell early in the first-half set the scene with Mattie BLAIR scoring the first on 19 minutes after confusion in the Salisbury six-yard box.

An assistant referee flagged that the ball had crossed the goal-line when in keeper Simon Arthur's grasp.

Two minutes later a mix-up in the centre of defence saw the ball fall invitingly to BLAIR who could not miss from close in.

The third goal arrived on 25 minutes when Jon Challinor dribbled through the middle and the ball popped up obligingly for Jamie READ to lob over Arthur who seemed unnecessarily off his line.

Another two-goal burst in 34 minutes saw York go 4-0 up through a Patrick MC LAUGHLAN free-kick and then Salisbury get one back through Jake REID on 35 minutes.

York started the second period as though they wanted to set up a cricket score but it was not until the 70th minute that they bagged their fifth.

Matt BLINIKHORNE scored from close in from Blair's driven cross.

On 77 minutes Danny Webb raised home hopes when his header brought a great save from Michael Ingham and two minutes later the Whites were awarded a penalty when Dan FITCHETT was brought down in the box and scored the penalty.

Four minutes from the end MC LAUGHLAN ran through Salisbury's rear guard to score York's sixth goal with a firm strike.

**LYNDHURST 3 SOTON  
COMRADES 2 (AET)**  
LYNDHURST had all the opening attacks and were unlucky on two occasions not to take the lead.

But, against the run of play, Comrades went 1-0 up after 20 minutes which gave the visitors the incentive.

again took the lead to make it 2-1 but ASH BADDAMS came on and got the equaliser.

Just before the final whistle Lyndhurst's Simon Parker made a blinding save to extend the game into extra time.

There was no score in the first half of extra time, but two minutes

from the end, Tony Wilkinson hit the crossbar, the ball rebounded out and was headed in by BRETT WHEELER to give Lyndhurst a 3-2 lead.

It was almost the last kick of a very thrilling game which had been played in good spirit by both teams.

## Did You Know?

A host of sports stars have taken the opportunity to communicate directly with their fans on microblogging site Twitter.

But it can prove something of a minefield for those in the public eye.

Here, the *Sports Pink* looks at some of the stars who have courted controversy on their Twitter feeds.

### 1 Wojciech Szczesny

"I don't wanna be rude mate but you look like a rapist on that picture lol."

"Looking like a rapist/pedo file (sic) isn't a good thing either ;)"

Arsenal goalkeeper Wojciech Szczesny made an ill-advised joke at the expense of team-mate Aaron Ramsey who had posted a photograph of himself dressed for a game of golf on Twitter.

Ramsey replied: "jealousy is not a good thing mate. I try my best mate we're not all blessed with a good fashion sense like you".

Szczesny later apologised and deleted the comments from his timeline.

### 2 Charlie Villanueva

"In da locker room, snuck to post my twitt. We're playing the Celtics, tie ball game at da half. Coach wants more toughness. I gotta step up."

The original Twitter offender, forward Villanueva, then of the Milwaukee Bucks, drew the ire of coach Scott Skiles when he tweeted at half-time during a game against the Boston Celtics. Skiles was unimpressed, saying: "We made a point to Charlie and the team that it's nothing we ever want to happen again."

Villanueva was traded to the Detroit Pistons three months later.

### 3 Phil Hughes

"Disappointed not to be on the field with the lads today, will be supporting the guys, it's a BIG test match 4 us. Thanks 4 all the support!"

The tweet appeared on Hughes' feed, although his manager Neil D'Costa later accepted the blame for it, before the start of the third Ashes Test at Edgbaston in 2009 in which Hughes was omitted favour of Shane Watson. A Cricket Australia spokesman said: "As a young player he will be reminded that he should not be revealing details until the team has been officially announced."

### 4 Darren Bent

"Do I wanna go Hull City NO. Do I wanna go Stoke NO do I wanna go Sunderland YES so stop f\*\*\*\*\* around, Levy. Sunderland are not the problem in the slightest."

Bent closed down his account and apologised after his expletive-laden rants at Tottenham chairman Daniel Levy caused uproar as he angled for a move to Sunderland. It worked, though, as he completed his switch to the Stadium of Light soon after.

### 5 Tim Bresnan

"Don't mind my mates dishing it out but who the f\*\*\* are you. Crawl out of your basement U \*\*\*."

A Twitter newbie, Bresnan got straight into the swing of things, bantering with England team-mates James Anderson and Graeme Swann about his weight. But when an outsider joined in, mocking up an unflattering picture of the Yorkshire all-rounder, he really let rip. He later apologised to coach Andy Flower.

# There are good strikers in the Championship..

## MATT TUBBS is used to being a hero.

The hotshot striker bagged the only goal as Crawley Town knocked Championship side Bristol City out of the FA Cup last Saturday.

Tubbs has not stopped scoring since joining Crawley in the summer of 2010 from Salisbury in a deal which manager Steve Evans insists was worth a bargain £50,000 rather than the £70,000 fee widely reported.

With 40 goals in all competitions last year, including 37 in 41 league appearances, and another 17 league and cup strikes already this season, Tubbs is hot property.

It is no surprise that he has been attracting plenty of interest in the January transfer window, with Bournemouth having a bid for the 27-year-old turned down earlier this week and Ipswich also being linked.

But there was a time before Tubbs scored goals for a living.

After being released by Bolton Wanderers, where he had been a trainee, Tubbs needed to earn a living.

He did that by taking a job as a lifeguard at a popular holiday park in west Hampshire.

And there is one family at least who will vouch that Tubbs' heroics are not confined to the football field.

He explained: "I was a lifeguard at a leisure centre. It was the most boring job ever because the pool was never busy."

"If there was just one old lady in the pool, I would have to watch her go up and down, up and down. It was really boring."

"I was lucky enough to get the chance when Salisbury went full-time and I have not looked back since."

"It was a leisure centre at Fordingbridge called Sandy Balls."

"I would have been about 20. It made a man out of me."

"I had come from full-time football and I had to get a job, I had to earn my own keep and play part-time football."

"Once I had to save someone. There was a little girl who fell off her float and her mum was swimming up and down. I had to quickly jump in."

While level-headed, Tubbs is also confident in his own abilities to perform and score at a higher level.

He demonstrated his ability to do that with the way he finished past former England goalkeeper David James against Bristol City last Saturday.

Fans are hoping Tubbs can progress with Crawley and, one thing is for sure, the player could not be hap-

# Matt carries on thumping them in



With 40 goals in all competitions last season ... Tubbs is hot property.

**DIFFERENT STROKES:** Matt Tubbs scoring against Bristol City and, right: poolside.



pier in his career than now.

He said: "When I signed here 18 months ago the gaffer said where he wanted to be and we are heading in the right direction.

"I am a firm believer that the higher you go the more space you get."

"Bristol City didn't press as high as teams in League One or League Two do. We

showed when we play really high and we play with such a high tempo teams find it hard to break us down."

"We played a great Championship side (in Bristol City) and got the right result."

Crawley have an important league match at Bristol Rovers tomorrow but also have an FA Cup fourth

round trip to another Championship outfit, Hull, later this month.

Tubbs still has a Michael Owen shirt as a memento of last season's conquests and would love another Cup run.

He said: "It was great for us as players last year to play against those league teams and to get Man Utd

away was fantastic.

"It also shows how far we have come as a club. A few seasons ago the club nearly went bust."

"Now, with people putting the money in, we put in a very good performance against a Championship side so it is hard to say when the ball will stop rolling."

# but more are waiting to be given their chance

**IN-DEMAND** Jordan Rhodes has been likened to ex-Saints pair Alan Shearer and Kevin Phillips.

The Huddersfield Town striker is the leading marksman in English football.

He has belted 27 league and cup goals already for his club this season – including four sprees of three or more in a game – plus six for Scotland under-21s.

Such form has led Saints' Championship rivals West Ham to enquire about the former Ipswich striker.

Numerous scouts were expected to watch Rhodes in action against Oldham in a League 1 match this weekend.

"Let them come because

## Touch of Shearer about ace Rhodes

Jordan is buzzing from the attention," said Terriers boss Lee Clark.

"While he hasn't yet played at the level they have, his finishing is up there with the likes of Alan Shearer, Andy Cole and Kevin Phillips.

"And his general play is excellent. He is bringing others into the game, he is holding the ball, he is twisting and turning players and creating chances for others.

"You look at the stats and

see he is very rarely caught offside, and that's an indication of how good his movement is.

"I noted the press talk last week, when his value seemed to go up from £3m to £4m, but, to be honest, that's peanuts."

Rhodes went into this weekend's game with Oldham having blitzed 12 goals in his last five matches.

That incredible run included five in last Friday's 6-0 romp at

Wycombe and four in the 4-4 draw at Sheffield Wednesday last month.

Amazingly, that is not Rhodes' best run of the season.

Back in October he scored 13 goals in five matches!

He started with two for Huddersfield against Brentford before hitting a hat-trick for Scotland under-21s in Luxembourg.

Two more followed for his country's under-21s

in a 2-2 draw against Austria before back to back hat-tricks for the Terriers in League 1 games at Exeter and at home to Preston.



**FORMER** Salisbury City manager Tommy Widdrington believes Matt Tubbs would be a good signing for a Championship club.

Salisbury-born Tubbs played under Widdrington in the Blue Square Premier during his last season with his hometown club, scoring 25 goals in 42 appearances before moving to Crawley Town last year.

After blasting an incredible 57 goals in just 77 games for League Two Crawley, he is now wanted by League One AFC Bournemouth – the club where he spent a short loan spell in 2008/09.

But Widdrington believes the 27-year-old, who became an FA Cup hero last weekend when his goal dumped out two divisions higher Bristol City, could do well at a high-

**Simon Walter**

simon.walter@dailyecho.co.uk

er level. And Widdrington said: "The lad's coming into his prime in terms of age."

"He might be looked on as a late developer by some but that's only because he wasn't given his chance sooner."

"I remember being asked, as the manager of Salisbury City, who the best striker in the Conference was and I always said it was him."

"I stand by that."

"Before him it was [Stevenage's] Steve Morison, who's now doing it at the highest level with Norwich."

"I'm pleased Matt's getting recognition, hopefully for him he gets the right move."

"He plays in a very specialist position, people want a goalscorer at every level and, as a Huddersfield scout, I know a lot of League One clubs are interested in him."

"There might be parts of the game he's not as good at but he has an outstanding goalscoring record and he scores all kinds of goals; headers, close-range goals, brave goals and goals showing fantastic technique."

"I've been asked on numerous occasions whether I think he can play higher and he could go up one more level without a shadow of a doubt."

"He could probably go higher as he showed on Saturday that he can score against Championship opposition."

"I don't think he would be that expensive as he has never played at a higher level than he's at now."

"But he's scored at every level he's played at. There was only one season at Salisbury (2008/09) when he didn't score goals and that was because the club was in turmoil and he was completely unsettled."

"As a bloke on the training ground he's a joy to work with."

"He's a bit of a lad but you need that bit of devilment – and he had that in abundance."

## Did You Know

**SAINTS** stars Adam Lallana, Richard Chaplow and Jack Cork were all at White Hart lane to see Tottenham beat Everton 2-0 on Wednesday night.

Meanwhile, Guly and other Saints had a dinner date. And Steve De Ridder was more impressed with Hatem Ben Arfa's sensational goal against Blackburn than Jos Hooiveld was with War Horse.

**Mick Channon** (@Mick\_Channon\_TV)

Scholes AND Henry come back last weekend. Not even a phone call from Saints. If they've called that Le Tissier bloke instead it's a disgrace



**CHANNON:** Still waiting for a call from Saints ...

**Michael Carberry** (@carbs646)

Seeing Halle on BBC tv brightened up my day. She is def my ultimate woman! Loved dat girl since i was about 8 ha ha **lovehalleberry**

**Adam Lallana** (@adallllana1)

Disappointing result for the toffees, spurs controlled the game! Wat a strike from ekotto for the 2nd goal **tekkers**

**Jack Cork** (@jackcork1)

Great win. We need to take that back to the league now! **that j\_w\_prowse** and spud for scoring!



**HOOIVELD:** Not impressed with War Horse ...

Well deserved for both of them.

**Guilherme Do Prado** (@gu11guly)

2nigh dinner wiv joss, Jose Fonte, Morgan and steve!!!! [sic]

**Steve De Ridder** (@stieff87)

Ben Arfa's goal against Blackburn is just UNREAL! **feet**

**Jos Hooiveld** (@joshooiveld20)

We've got a new flipper the dolphin, only now its a horse.. Warhorse, terrible movie! Just as bad as the cover. Germans speakin english??!! I think the horse wrote the screenplay as well, that would explain a lot!

**James Ward-Prowse** (@j\_w\_prowse)

Fantastic win against Bolton, showed great character to get back into the game!! Onto round 5!!



**NON-LEAGUE FOOTBALL - SEE PAGES 18-23**

# Cherries/Pompey Spotlight



## CHERRIES 2011/12

August	
6 Charlton (A) .....	L 0-3
9 Dagenham (H, CC) .....	W 5-0
Taylor 2, Pugh, Cooper, Feeney	
13 Sheff Wed (H) .....	W 2-0
Barrett, Arter	
16 Stevenage (H) .....	L 1-3
Arter	
20 Carlisle (A) .....	L 1-2
Arter (pen)	
23 WBA (H, CC) .....	L 1-4
Lovell	
27 Walsall (H) .....	L 0-2
20 Hereford (H, JPT) .....	W 4-1
Stockley 2, Pugh, MacDonald	
September	
3 Notts County (A) .....	L 1-3
Pugh	
10 Chesterfield (H) .....	L 0-3
13 Leyton Orient (A) .....	W 3-1
Arter (pen), Thomas, Pugh	
17 Exeter (A) .....	W 2-0
Thomas, OG	
24 Hartlepool .....	L 1-2
Gregory	
October	
1 Tranmere (A) .....	D 0-0
4 Yeovil (H, JPT) .....	W 3-2
Pugh 2, OG	
8 Rochdale .....	D 1-1
Symes pen	
15 MK Dons (A) .....	D 2-2
Thomas 2	
22 Bury (H) .....	L 1-3
25 Colchester (A) .....	D 1-1
Thomas	
29 Preston (A) .....	W 3-1
Thomas, Malone, Pugh	
November	
5 Scunthorpe (H) .....	W 2-0
Malone, Thomas	
12 Gillingham (H, FAC) .....	D 3-3
Purches, Zubar, Malone,	
19 Wycombe(A) .....	W 1-0
22 Gillingham (A, FACR) .....	L 2-3
og, Arter	
December	
26 Oldham (H) .....	D 0-0
January	
2 Wycombe (H) .....	W 2-0
Thomas, Symes	
7 Walsall (A) .....	D 2-2
Symes, Fletcher	
14 Notts County (H) Thomas,	
Fogden .....	W 2-1
21 Tranmere .....	(H)
28 Chesterfield .....	(A)
February	
4 Exeter .....	(H)
11 Hartlepool .....	(A)
14 Leyton Orient .....	(H)
18 Rochdale .....	(A)
25 MK Dons .....	(H)
March	
3 Charlton .....	(H)
6 Stevenage .....	(A)
10 Sheff Wed .....	(A)
17 Carlisle .....	(H)
20 Brentford .....	(H)
24 Oldham .....	(A)
31 Yeovil .....	(H)
April	
7 Sheff Utd .....	(A)
9 Huddersfield .....	(H)
14 Bury .....	(A)
21 Colchester .....	(H)
28 Scunthorpe .....	(A)
May	
5 Preston .....	(H)

# TEN MEN CAN'T STOP HAMMERS

**PORTSMOUTH 0  
WEST HAM 1**  
**WEST HAM kept up the pressure on Saints at the top of the npower Championship with a win over 10-man Portsmouth.**

Mark Noble's first-half penalty proved enough to see off Pompey, who had David Norris sent off after the break. Victory means Sam Allardyce's men, who were unceremoniously dumped out of the FA Cup by Sheffield Wednesday in their previous match, remain level with Southampton at the top of the table, while Michael Appleton's Portsmouth may still be looking nervously over their shoulders at the relegation zone seven points below.

The hosts carved out the first opening as Liam Lawrence lifted in a free-kick and Greg Halford eluded his marker to get to the ball first before steering his header over the bar.

But it was the Hammers using the ball to greater effect on the floor and midway through the half they crafted a move of genuine quality which



**HAMMERS BLOW:** Mark Noble celebrates his West Ham winner.

saw Noble and Winston Reid play a clever one-two before the latter was brought down by Tal Ben-Haim in the box.

Referee Kevin Friend did not hesitate to point to the spot and Noble stroked home his fourth penalty of the season despite Stephen Henderson managing to get a hand to it.

Pompey were forced to make a change with just over half an hour gone as defensive midfielder Aaron Mokoena limped off following a challenge with Carlton Cole.

Appleton took the

opportunity to introduce a more attacking player, bringing on Norway international Erik Huseklepp, who almost made an immediate impact.

He brilliantly controlled a lofted pass on his chest before cutting inside and feeding Norris, whose shot deflected wide off James Tomkins.

The same two players linked up again to earn a corner two minutes later as the home side cranked up the pressure, but the visitors cleared at the second attempt.

Portsmouth closed the half with another

well-crafted opportunity as Dave Kitson sprayed a pass wide for Lawrence and the midfielder surged past George McCartney before stinging Robert Green's palms with a powerful effort.

The hosts continued to press after the break and looked the more likely to score next, although Jason Pearce's 40-yard effort proved a little too ambitious as it sailed clear of the bar.

Their chances of claiming something from the game were dealt a critical blow after 57 minutes though when Norris

was dismissed for a foul on Reid.

Despite their numerical disadvantage, Portsmouth still looked a threat in front of goal and Marko Futacs pounced on Reid's poor defensive header but dragged his shot just wide from 20 yards.

It was West Ham who went closest in the second half, however, as Jack Collison curled in a superb long-range effort which came back off the angle of bar and post.

Henderson then had to be alert to keep out a wayward chested backpass from Halford as Allardyce's side sought to make the points safe.

They controlled possession for the final 15 minutes, sporadically t h r e a t e n i n g Henderson's goal and, crucially, denying Portsmouth any clear-cut opportunities to snatch a draw.

Kevin Nolan should have put the icing on the cake with four minutes left when Collison played him in but he lifted his shot over and, with Saints winning comfortably at Nottingham Forest, the Hammers stayed second on goal difference.

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Departs 15 March 2012

# Cherries/Pompey Spotlight

**NPOWER LEAGUE 1: AFC Bournemouth 2 Notts County 1**

# CHERRIES HIT BACK TO GRAB THE POINTS

**GOALS** from Wes Thomas and Wes Fogden saw Cherries come from behind to see off Notts County at the Seward Stadium today.

Thomas fired home his ninth of the season midway through the first half to cancel out Hamza Bencherif's fourth-minute opener.

And Fogden grabbed the winner seven minutes from time, the former Havant & Waterlooville man finishing emphatically following good work by substitute Shaun MacDonald.

Boss Lee Bradbury made three changes to the Cherries starting line-up with Adam Barrett, Charlie Daniels and Stephen Purches all returning.

Fit-again skipper Barrett replaced Stephane Zubar, Daniels was drafted in at the expense of Warren Cummings and birthday boy Purches came in for Steven Gregory.

Marc Pugh went close to drawing first blood for Cherries when his thunderous drive was saved at the second attempt by Magpies goalkeeper Stuart Nelson.

However, BENCHERIF stepped forward to open the scoring in emphatic fashion, his 25-yard piledriver whistling past Cherries goalkeeper Darryl Flahavan after five minutes.

Cherries' woes were compounded just minutes later when Barrett again succumbed to his recurring hamstring problem, the defender replaced by Zubar.

As the visitors quickly went in search of a second goal, midfielder Neal Bishop lifted his shot over the crossbar following a corner from Alan Judge.

Cherries were rewarded for a sustained spell of pressure when THOMAS displayed all his predatory instincts to restore parity in the 21st minute.

The striker was on hand to slot home the loose ball from close range after Nelson



**MAKING THE DIFFERENCE:** Wes Fogden scored the winner for Cherries.

could only parry a first-time effort from Purches following a Pugh centre.

Cherries had a major let-off midway through the first half when Jeff Hughes contrived to rattle the underside of the crossbar when it looked easier to hit the target from six yards.

Purches, bidding to celebrate his 32nd birthday with a goal, fired wide from 20 yards following some slick build-up play after 35 minutes.

Flahavan saved comfortably from a Jeff Hughes effort before Nelson scrambled across his line to push a stinging drive from Simon Francis past the upright as the first half drew to a close.

County appealed in vain for a penalty after Lee Hughes had theatrically gone to ground under a challenge from Zubar 10 minutes into the second half.

Lee Hughes hooked a shot over the crossbar after Judge's corner had found

him unmarked at the far post before Zubar's well-timed challenge denied Ishmel Demontagnac a shooting chance.

Thomas fired straight at Liam Chivers after working an opening with a mazy run, while Bencherif's powerful long-range shot flew inches past the post.

Nelson excelled himself when he saved one handed after Thomas had climbed at the near post to meet Charlie Daniels's inswinging corner

with a glancing header after 70 minutes.

The County goalkeeper was finally beaten for a second time when FOGDEN drilled a right-foot effort past him following good work by Cherries substitute Shaun MacDonald seven minutes from time.

**Cherries (4-2-2):** Flahavan, Francis, Barrett (Zubar, 9), Cook, Daniels, Fogden, Arter (MacDonald, 67), Purches, Pugh, Symes (Fletcher, 76), Thomas.  
Unused subs: Gregory, Jalal (g/k).

## POMPEY 2011/12

### August

6 Middlesbrough (A) . . .	D 2-2
Norris, Varney	
9 Barnet (H, CC) . . .	L 0-1
13 Brighton (H) . . .	L 0-1
16 Reading (H) . . .	W 1-0
Kitson	
20 Bristol City (A) . . .	D 0-0
27 Cardiff (H) . . .	D 1-1
Kanu	

### September

10 West Ham (A) . . .	L 3-4
Varney, Norris, Halford	
17 Hull (A) . . .	L 0-1
24 Blackpool (H) . . .	W 1-0
Huseklepp	
27 Peterboro (H) . . .	L 2-3
og, Benjani	

### October

1 Leeds (A) . . .	L 0-1
15 Barnsley (H) . . .	W 2-0
Norris, Varney	
18 Ipswich (A) . . .	L 0-1
22 Doncaster (H) . . .	W 3-1
Varney (2), Kitson	
29 Derby . . .	L 1-3
Pearce	

### November

1 Crystal Palace . . .	D 0-0
5 Nottm Forest . . .	W 3-0
Huseklepp (2), Kitson	
19 Watford (A) . . .	L 0-2
26 Leicester (H) . . .	D 1-1
Norris	
29 Birmingham (A) . . .	PP

### December

3 Coventry (H) . . .	W 2-1
Halford, Ward	
10 Burnley (A) . . .	W 1-0
Norris	
17 Southampton (H) . . .	D 1-1
Ward	
26 Millwall (A) . . .	L 0-1
31 Leicester (A) . . .	D 1-1
Futacs	

### January

2 Watford (H) . . .	W 2-0
Futacs, Mullins	
8 Chelsea (FAC, A) . . .	L 0-4
14 West Ham (H) . . .	L 0-1
21 Cardiff . . .	(A)
31 Peterborough . . .	(A)

### February

4 Hull . . .	(H)
11 Blackpool . . .	(A)
14 Ipswich . . .	(H)
18 Barnsley . . .	(A)
25 Leeds . . .	(H)

### March

3 Middlesbrough . . .	(H)
6 Reading . . .	(A)
10 Brighton . . .	(A)
17 Bristol City . . .	(H)
20 Birmingham . . .	(H)
24 Coventry . . .	(A)
31 Burnley . . .	(H)

### April

7 Southampton . . .	(A)
9 Millwall . . .	(H)
14 Doncaster . . .	(A)
17 Crystal Palace . . .	(H)
21 Derby . . .	(H)
28 Nottm Forest . . .	(A)

**TODAY'S CHAMPIONSHIP RESULTS - SEE BACK PAGE**

# Non-league Football

## Non-league News

**Sandell fits for County**  
ANDY Sandell has moved into the Blue Square Bet Premier with Newport County.

The Wiltshire-born former Bristol Rovers, Salisbury City and Aldershot wideman, pictured below, played briefly for AFC Totton's Southern Premier rivals Chippenham Town after turning his back on League football with Wycombe Wanderers. Sandell made his Newport bow in last Saturday's 2-0 defeat at Luton. The Welshmen played an hour with ten men after fellow debutant Ryan Charles had been sent off.



**Ex-Hawk on move**  
FORMER Havant & Waterlooville striker Richard Pacquette has signed for Blue Square Bet Premier outfit Lincoln City for the rest of the season.



The 28-year-old Dominican Republic international, pictured, only recently joined Maidenhead United and scored twice in their 3-1 BSB South win over Basingstoke Town on New Year's Eve.

**Romans go global**  
SYDENHAMS Premier outfit Brading Town have announced a new link-up with McDonald's.

The Ryde restaurant has agreed to have the Romans as their partner club. Brading's reserves will shortly be wearing a new strip bearing the fast food giant's logo and equipment will be provided for both the senior and colts sections at Vicarage Lane.

McDonald's are an official partner of the FA and an official sponsor of the England national team.

"This is a great offer from a global company who are committed to helping football, not only at international level but also at grass roots," said Brading's reserve team manager Steve Lawton.

"We are honoured that McDonald's have chosen our club."

# DESPERATE DAN

## Cherries stopper hopes to extend Totton loan stay

**AFC BOURNEMOUTH** goalkeeper Dan Thomas is hoping to extend his AFC Totton loan after keeping a clean sheet on his debut.

Thomas is highly regarded at Dean Court, having kept clean sheets in his two Football League appearances as an 18-year-old two seasons ago.

But he is currently behind Darryl Flahavan and Shawn Jalal in the Cherries' goalkeeping pecking order so is enjoying the chance to play first-team football.

The 20-year-old, main picture, impressed after replacing Grant Porter, pictured below, between the sticks for Saturday's 3-0 Evo-Stik Southern Premier win against fellow promotion chasers Chesham.

He said: "[Bournemouth goalkeeping coach] Neil Moss put it round to all the Conference and Conference South clubs and Totton came back so I'm here for a month to see how I can do.

"It was good to keep a clean sheet and hopefully I can keep it going."

Thomas has already had lengthy loan spells with Blue Square South outfit Dorchester and, for the first half of this season, Welling United.

This is his first experience of the Evo-Stik Southern League.

"As a young lad I just want to play. There are things you do in games that you don't really practise in training, like communicating with your defenders, so it's good to get a feel for that with Totton," he said.

"We look solid at the back and the lads have been great with me, helping me settle in."

Thomas will com-

**Simon Walter**

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mute to Totton on matchdays but will continue to train with the Cherries during the week.

Totton boss Stuart Ritchie dropped Grant Porter to make way for Thomas and was delighted with his debut.

"Dan was very accomplished, you could see everything slowed down when it came to him because he has that composure," he said.

"Grant's been brilliant, but at times players need to be taken out and have a rest."

Totton have also welcomed powerfully built utility man Ross Bottomley back into the fold after two years away playing Blue Square Bet South football with Eastleigh.

And, in Ritchie's book, the experienced 27-year-old is the ideal man to have in the trenches for the all-important Southern Premier run-in.

"Ross is the sort of player we need, especially away from home," said the boss. "He's up for a fight and a battle and enjoys that."

"Ross has got pedigree. He's played at that level (BSB South) and is not someone (Eastleigh manager) Ian Baird would have wanted to get rid of."

"But fortunately for us he's come back over to us at the right time."

"I'm a big fan of his and am pleased to have him back. He wanted to test himself a couple of levels higher when he left and I couldn't blame him for that."



## Town turn down League approach for Dickenson

DORCHESTER Town have reportedly rejected an offer for sought-after former Christchurch striker Ben Dickenson.

The unsuccessful bid is believed to have been submitted by an npower Championship club.

The 18-year-old, plucked out of Wessex Premier football during the summer, has made a huge impact at the Avenue Stadium but is currently sidelined with an ankle injury.

In his absence, on-loan Eastleigh frontman Andrew White, pictured left, opened the scoring for the Magpies in last Saturday's 3-0 home win over Thurrock.

White, who shook off a thigh problem to play, bagged his first ever Dorchester goal after 14 minutes.

Nick Crittenden's free-kick found the unmarked Nathan Walker at the back stick and he nodded the ball back across goal for White to bundle home.

Rico Wilson doubled the Magpies' advantage and new loan signing Tom Nichols from Exeter City came off the bench to score on his debut.

## Kearn answers Bash SOS

CHRISTCHURCH's experienced goalkeeper Stewart Kearn has joined Southern Premier outfit Bashley on dual registration.

The 36-year-old, pictured, who was on Sheffield Wednesday's books as a youngster, made one appearance for Bashley in April 2010.

And manager Steve Riley has now turned to him again having been without a permanent first-choice 'keeper since David Elm was forced to retire due to a persistent back problem earlier this season.

Riley drafted in Tommy Smith on loan

from Salisbury City last month with the 21-year-old making five appearances over the festive period.

But Smith returned to the Wiltshire outfit following Bash's 3-2 victory at Barwell last Saturday and has since joined Chippenham Town on loan until the end of the season. Meanwhile, Bash's chances of persuading striker Richard Gillespie to extend his loan spell into a second month appear to have bitten the dust.

Gillespie, who netted five times in as many games over the festive period, has returned to parent club Eastleigh.



**TURN BACK TO PAGE 13 FOR TODAY'S NON-LEAGUE ACTION**

# Non-league Football

## Bowers making a Cotes stand

GE HAMBLE'S Danny Bowers took more pleasure than most from Tuesday's 2-0 Russell Cotes Cup quarter-final victory over University of Portsmouth.

Having twice been a beaten RCC finalist with previous clubs, the Planemakers co-boss, pictured right, would dearly love to lift the elusive trophy this time round.

"I've been to the final twice in the last few years and lost both times to Fleet Town – once as assistant manager of Andover and once with Gosport," he said.

"I actually took the Gosport game while (manager) Alex Pike sat in the stand and he went mental when we lost!" smiled Bowers.

"I'm pleased to be through to the semi-finals with Hamble. We'd love some silverware this season and, having come so close in the past, it's a competition I'd really like to win."

It wasn't the best of games on Tuesday, but goals by Dougie Rowe – just back from a five weeks out injured – and Lewis Fennemore were enough to see off an industrious Portsmouth University side who had turfed out Moneyfields in the previous round.



"Fair play to University," said Bowers. "They defended deep the whole game and worked ever so hard. I don't think we've ever had a side come here and put in as much work as they did."

Hamble will have to wait a while to learn the identity of their semi-final opponents. But the good news for Bowers is that his nemesis Fleet did not enter the competition this season.

Winchester City are due to host AFC Totton in a delayed second-round tie on February 1 and the winners will host Bemerton Heath Harlequins for right to visit the Planemakers in the last four.

The other semi-final pits Gosport Borough or Christchurch at home to Hampshire Premier leaders Liphook United who outgunned league rivals QK Southampton 4-3.

The Gosport v Christchurch tie had been due to take place last Monday, but Gosport instead hosted Hungerford in a 0-0 Evo-Stik Division One South & West stalemate. A new date of January 30 has been pencilled in.

Russell Cotes Cup semi-final draw (matches to be played on February 28): GE Hamble v Winchester City or AFC Totton or Bemerton Heath Harlequins, Gosport Borough or Christchurch v Liphook United.



ON TARGET: GE Hamble's Lewis Fennemore, left.

## Non-league News

### Rolls writes off £75k

GEORGE Rolls has sensationally written off loans in the region of £75,000 in Weymouth and announced plans for the Evo-Stik Southern Premier outfit to go full-time next season.

The Cambridge-based businessman has also told fans he will be returning to the role of club chairman as soon as the relevant paperwork has been completed. Rolls, whose wife Amanda owns the majority shareholding in the club, said:

"We have agreed to write off the loans we put into the club, which total around £75,000. So, as of now, the club does not owe me any money except for the bit that I have put in this season due to cash-flow issues, but that is negligible."

And, explaining the Dorset club's move towards full-time football, he added: "At present our budget, due to expenses, is more than if we were full-time anyway."

"We have done the figures and it is something first-team manager Brendon Kings wants to do. We also believe it will give us more of a chance of getting up the league."

### Making the grade ...

CHAIRMAN Michael Fry is confident Verwood's Poterne Park would get the green light to stage Sydenhams Premier football should they be in a position to go up.

The Potters, currently lording it at the Wessex One summit, are among the favourites to claim one of the two available promotion places.

And they have already taken steps to meet the required ground grading, having been advised by an SWL inspection team last term.

Should they finish in the top two and decide to accept promotion, Verwood would need to install a public address system and a pay box and also extend the concrete footpaths behind the dugouts.

"Unless anything has changed since the last ground grading meeting then everything is in hand to meet the requirements," said Fry.

## Spitfires welcome EIGHT new sponsors on board

# EASTLEIGH'S CASH BOOST



**EASTLEIGH** have spectacularly bucked the downward financial trend by welcoming **EIGHT** new sponsors on board at the Silverlake Stadium.

The Spitfires kicked off a highly productive week by announcing that the name of insurance company Lawshield UK Limited would be appearing on the players' shorts.

And 24 hours later they unveiled seven additional sponsors – with hopefully more to follow.

Coming on top of major new sponsorship from imminent majority shareholders Bridle Insurance, these are fruitful days indeed for the Blue Square Bet South club.

Eastleigh's director of football Dave Malone beamed: "The last few weeks have been very exciting for all those involved with the club and Lawshield agreeing to sponsor the shorts is just further confirmation of

**Wendy Gee**

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**NON-LEAGUE REPORTER**

the exciting times ahead.

"Our main sponsors Bridle Insurance are really getting behind the club and are making an immediate impact, helping to secure an additional eight sponsors – including Lawshield – with lots more irons in the fire."

"We are all very excited and can't remember the last time we scored eight times in a day!"

Joining Lawshield in supporting Bridle's bold plans to deliver League football to the Silverlake are 911uk.com, Bridle Vehicle Leasing, Draper Tools, Funtime Bouncy Castles, Jamesons Accountants, Kyriakides & Braier and Metabo Power Tools.

Bridle, meanwhile, are offering special insurance rates for Eastleigh

fans, players and staff.

The revenue generated will be split equally between club and company.

"This is a superb way of raising revenue," enthused Malone. "Bridle have committed to being a long-term partner of EFC and this is a way fans can help raise vital money for the club."

Darren Nangle, Bridle's head of personal lines, says the company are determined to keep the ball rolling.

"We are very keen for other local businesses to get involved to either sponsor or advertise with Eastleigh FC – no matter how large or small," he said.

"We have been encouraged by the response we have received so far, especially given the difficult economic climate, which further demonstrates the Eastleigh community embracing the upcoming Bridle era."

Anyone wishing to get involved or advertise with Eastleigh FC can ring the club on 023 8061 3361.

**EASTLEIGH'S BID TO JOIN NON-LEAGUE ELITE - PAGES 26-27**

# Non-league Football

## Non-league News

**Agony for Amesbury**  
AMESBURY Town were moments away from securing a superb three points at Team Solent's new Test Park home last Saturday.

The Wiltshire visitors went ahead on the hour when Craig Wheeler, pictured, started and finished a fine move. They held onto that lead until the Southampton student side eventually equalised amid some stoppage-time drama.

A penalty was awarded and Amesbury's Ben Price received a second yellow card for dissent.

Leo Churms' spot kick struck the bar and, when the ball came out to the edge of the area, Scott Kinge let fly to rescue the Students a last-gasp 1-1 Sydenhams One draw.

### Burnett out of luck

NEW Milton boss Glenn Burnett still managed a smile after watching his side bow out of the Sydenhams Wessex League Cup with a luckless 1-0 defeat at his old club Romsey Town.

Burnett, below, who saw Romsey's new dual signing Liam Robinson from Eastleigh bag the only goal of the third round tie, joked: "I was going to phone Romsey to apologise for all 22 men playing in one half for 45 minutes!"

"Someone said a fairer result would have been 7-1 to us and that summed it up."

Romsey coach Andy Darnton conceded: "We rode our luck a bit. Our goalkeeper Matt Brown made a few crucial saves."

For rampant Romsey, it extended their unbeaten run to 16 games in all competitions.

### Neighbours do battle

HAMWORTHY United have announced a midweek friendly against their Evo-Stik Division One South & West neighbours Wimborne Town. Simon Browne's Hammers, currently struggling for form in the Sydenhams Premier Division, will take on the Magpies at the County Ground this Tuesday (January 17), kicking-off at 7.45pm.



## FA proposing shake-up of non-league structure

THE Football Association are exploring the possibility of reducing the number of Step 5 feeder leagues – which includes the Sydenhams Wessex League – by two.

With Step 4 now established with six divisions (the Evo-Stik Southern One South & West and Central, the Ryman One South & North and the Northern Premier One North and South) and 12 possible relegation places, a review group has been charged with looking into the possibility of trimming the 14 Step 5 leagues to 12.

At a meeting held at Burton Albion FC earlier this week, an example of how the new structure might look was presented.

The example included all current

Step 5 clubs irrespective of whether they complied with the appropriate grading criteria.

The meeting highlighted the following:

- Every effort should be made to establish 12 Step 5 divisions each of 22 clubs;
- To be included, clubs must achieve Category F ground grading by March 31, 2013;
- All clubs meeting the F Grade will be included in the new structure and, to facilitate this in the first season, 2013/14, the number of clubs in each division may vary between 22 and 25;
- By adjustments being made to the number of relegated clubs from Step 5 over the following one

or two seasons, numbers would reduce to 22 clubs.

All Step 5 clubs have been invited to attend a series of regional meetings, starting at the Thurrock Hotel tomorrow (January 15), to consider the proposals and have any concerns explained to them.

The review group will also be looking at Step 6 (Sydenhams One level) in more detail in the coming months.

Rumours are rife that the Sussex County League Division One and the United Counties League Premier have been earmarked to be disbanded next season with the Sussex clubs being relocated to the Kent, Wessex and Combined Counties Leagues.

But Mike Appleby, the FA's leagues and clubs manager, stressed that no final decision had been made.

"There are a number of inaccurate rumours circulating and we must await the outcome of the consultation process before any final recommendation is made," he said.

"Part of the original aim of the restructure process was to try to equalise the travelling of clubs. It is inevitable, therefore, that some clubs will find an increase in travel whilst some will see a reduction."

The Sydenhams Wessex League are holding a meeting with chairs and secretaries to discuss the details next Sunday (January 22).

## LUKE FOLLOWS THE LEADER TO TOWN'S RIVALS

**ROMSEY** Town believe they have played fair by Luke Baker in allowing him to join divisional rivals Lymington Town.

Baker – son of ex-Saint Graham – has made just eight Wessex starts for the Bypass boys this season, spending the vast majority of his time warming the bench.

And with Lymington rebuilding under new manager Andy Leader, it's the perfect opportunity for the hard-working midfielder to get a decent run of games under his belt.

"Luke's been on the fringes at Romsey, he trains hard and it's not fair to keep bringing him along if he's not getting games," explained Town's assistant boss Stuart Long.

"He didn't really want to go, but he's been with Andy Leader before as a youngster and, with a view that we're trying to sign some other players as well, we thought it was the fairest thing."

Although Romsey have exceeded all expectations this season by establishing themselves as regular fixtures in the Sydenhams Premier top-six, Long and manager Wayne Mew are not prepared to rest on their laurels and just stick with what they've got.

### Freshen things up'

"We're halfway through the season and we want to freshen things up a bit," said Mew's right-hand man.

"We've had the same people on the bench all the time and we're

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NON-LEAGUE REPORTER

asking ourselves if it's worth just keeping those or bringing in new ones who will come in and fight for a place."

That, though, is not a simple process. Town's financial position means it takes time to identify players with the right blend of playing ability and character to don the Romsey shirt.

### 'We don't pay anyone'

"We don't pay anyone so we've got a job on our hands to keep players here and keep everyone happy," said Long.

"We're trying to sign players who will fit in with the club and the way we play and who want to be part of Romsey Town going forward."

Already the Bypass boys have added a new name to the squad for 2012, signing wideman/forward Liam Robinson on dual registration from Eastleigh.

He will hopefully prove the ideal stand-in for Ben White who is going off travelling to Thailand for a month.

White is a hard act to follow but, in Robinson, Long believes they have found a like-for-like replacement to buzz around behind front-runners Simon De'Ath and Ryan Long.

"We needed someone quick and



**FRESH CHALLENGE:** Luke Baker, centre, has left Romsey to join divisional rivals Lymington.

nimble like Ben and Liam fits the bill," said Romsey's assistant boss.

"He's of the same stature as Ben, but he needs time to settle. Although he was at Fareham Town originally, coming out of Eastleigh Reserves and straight into the Wessex Premier is a bit of a culture shock."

Locks Heath-based Robinson, an Eastleigh FC academy/multi-skills coach, has made 14 starts for the

Spitfires' second string this season, scoring 18 goals.

He looks set to continue in that vein for Romsey having netted the winner in Tuesday night's 1-0 SWL Cup third round win over New Milton.

This Tuesday (January 17) Romsey face a big test at Blue Square Bet South outfit Eastleigh in the Hampshire FA Senior Cup quarter-final.

**BIG GAME COVERAGE IN MONDAY'S DAILY ECHO**

# Non-league Football

**Eastleigh's 'man that got away' for Newcastle Reserves**

# PRIOR CALLS THE TOON

**TYNESIDE DREAM:** Bognor Regis hitman Jason Prior.



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**NON-LEAGUE REPORTER**

**JASON Prior, Eastleigh's man that got away, donned the iconic Newcastle No9 shirt on Tuesday – and scored in front of the Toon's former Saints boss Alan Pardew.**

The prolific Bognor Regis marksman had looked certain to join Eastleigh at the turn of the year after an agreement had been struck with the Ryman Division One South club for a £12,000 move to the Silverlake.

But, much to the Spittfires' surprise, Prior's agent then announced that the former Moneyfields striker was going on trial to Newcastle to try and win the contract of a lifetime.

This week the 23-year-old's Tyneside dream took a step in the right direction when he played his first full United game – a 3-1 win over Wigan Athletic in the FA Premier Reserve League.

Having poked an earlier opportunity wide, Prior struck on 77 minutes, finding the top corner from 15 yards after being played in by Greg McDermott – son of ex-Liverpool and Newcastle midfielder Terry.

It was yet another lethal finish by the hungry hitman whose outstanding record of 92 goals in 120 games had attracted a host of Football League and Conference scouts to Bognor's Nyewood Lane.

Although Newcastle coach Willie Donachie spoke highly of Prior afterwards, he admitted he was unsure whether he would be good enough to earn a Toon contract.

However, with scouts from Cardiff,

Hibernian and Norwich all in attendance, Prior may well have caught the eye of another professional club.

Donachie said: "He's a lovely guy with a great attitude."

"It's great having him around – and he's a goalscorer."

"I don't know if he is going to be good enough for Newcastle, but there were a lot of scouts there and somebody will see he has to be better than the level he is playing at."

United fans are right behind Prior with Ed Harrison, author of the The Newcastle United Blog, admitting: "We're kind of rooting for Jason, if the truth be told."

"It remains to be seen if he can do enough to win a contract at Newcastle, but it will not harm him having scored a very good goal in front of the watching Alan Pardew in his very first game for Newcastle reserves."

## Lovely BUBBLy

EASTLEIGH have atoned for missing out on Jason Prior by loaning another proven marksman, Bradley Bubb, from Aldershot Town for the rest of the season.

Bubb, pictured below, a former Chalfont St Peter and Beaconsfield SYCOB hitman, was a key player for Farnborough in the Blue Square Bet South last term before joining the Shots in the summer.

Most recently he has been on loan with another of Hampshire's BSB South clubs, Basingstoke Town, making his farewell appearance on Saturday in their 3-1 win at Bromley.

Eastleigh boss Ian Baird said of the Harrow-born 23-year-old Grenada international: "We needed someone with experience and a good scoring record who will give us genuine pace. Bradley fits that category."

By coincidence, Bubb could make his league debut for Eastleigh at Basingstoke next Saturday (January 21).

The Spittfires have no game this weekend and return to action on Tuesday night (January 17, 7.45pm) against Romsey Town in the Hampshire FA Senior Cup quarter-finals.

## Non-league News

### Ross the boss

ROSS Bottomley celebrated his Totton return by leading them into the quarter-finals of the Southern League Red Insure Cup on Tuesday.

The popular defender, pictured, was made captain for the night and presided over a comfortable 3-0 home victory against Swindon Supermarine. Stefan Brown capitalised on good work from wideman John McKie and a Tom Baddeley cross to strike either side of half-time.

Mark Osman crowned victory with a fine individual goal in the 51st minute.



### Magpies' Wig cash

SKILFUL winger Ryan Wignall has rejoined Belgian League outfit Royal Racing FC Montegnée following a three-month spell in Dorset with Wimborne Town.

The 22-year-old former Liverpool academy player, below, initially joined Royal

Racing from Cammell Laird in February 2010, penning a full-time contract with the Liege-based club.

Wimborne reached agreement for Wignall to return to Belgium with the Magpies receiving an undisclosed transfer fee and potential sell-on.

"We are sorry to see Ryan go and didn't want to stand in his way. We wish him all the best for the future," said boss Steve Cuss.

### Camm-eth the moment ...

FAREHAM Town were forced into an early reshuffle against Fawley in midweek when Mark Cotton limped off injured just five minutes into the Sydenhams Premier clash.

But all was well that ended well for the Reds with Cotton's replacement, Steve Cammack, scoring in his side's 1-0 victory.

It was a second clean sheet for Fareham after Saturday's 0-0 draw at Newport and manager Matt Parr said: "We've become less gung-ho and have looked more solid."



## Board back Cuss's Town planning

WIMBORNE Town have shown faith in manager Steve Cuss by awarding him a contract.

Cuss, pictured left, has signed a deal which commits him to Cuthbury until the end of the 2012/13 campaign.

Although Wimborne still have work to do to preserve their Evo-Stik Southern One South & West status, the club are backing their manager to succeed with his new-look young side.

"I'm delighted to have been given the

backing of the board and awarded a contract until the end of next season," said the Magpies boss. "They understand what we are trying at this football club."

Cuss, meanwhile, has hailed Tom Jeffes "a quality striker" after reuniting with the frontman at Cuthbury.

Jeffes has joined the Magpies on a permanent basis after divisional rivals Poole Town agreed to release him from his contract.

The former Brockenhurst, Bourne-mouth Poppies and Christchurch hitman has signed non-contract terms for Wimborne having spent a loan spell with them earlier this season.

Cuss, who worked with Jeffes during his time as assistant manager at Poole, said: "He is a quality striker who will give us good competition for places."

Cuss has also bolstered the ranks by loaning another youngster, Elliot Ward, from AFC Bournemouth.

**NON-LEAGUE STORY TO TELL? CALL WENDY GEE ON 023 8042 4483**

# Non-league Football

## Non-league News

### Poppies power

**BOURNEMOUTH** Poppies show no sign of loosening their grip on the Sydenhams Wessex League Cup. Ken Vaughan's, pictured below, Cup holders became the first club through to this season's semi-final stage when they blitzed title-chasing Bemerton Heath Harlequins 4-0 at Victoria Park on Tuesday through Martin Warren (3) and Adam Taylor.

It completed an excellent week for the Poppies against Wiltshire opposition. Last Saturday Dave Ewen (2) and Luke Ingram found the net in a 3-0 Premier Division win against lowly Laverstock & Ford.

**Manager Vaughan**, whose charges beat Winchester City in the SWL Cup final at Totton last May, is desperate to see Poppies retain the trophy in memory of the club's late president Ernie Stimpson, who died in October.

"As far as we are concerned, it is Ernie's cup and we won't be letting it go without a fight," he pledged. "We won it for him and will be doing our utmost to retain it in his memory."

### Paul steps down

**IT'S** all change at the helm of Sydenhams Premier Division strugglers Hayling United. Steve Poulton has taken over as manager following the resignation of Lee Paul due to outside commitments.

"I would love to have stayed until the end of the season, but it looks like it is going to be a busy year for me," Paul explained.

**“My commitments as a coach of the Portsmouth Academy under-12s are taking up more and more of my time and I don't feel I can any longer make the commitment needed at Hayling.”**

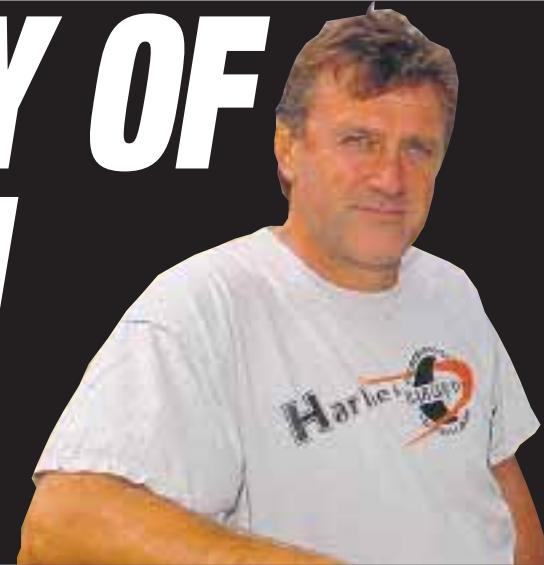
"It will be a big loss for me, though, after taking over and rebuilding the side last season with the help of Steve Black and Gavin Keogh."

**Poulton got his Humbugs reign off to a winning start last Saturday, inflicting a 2-1 defeat on visitors Hamworthy United through Ashley Fisher and Lee Tigwell.**



# SLADE WARY OF PROMOTION PITFALLS

**CAUTIOUS APPROACH:**  
Bemerton chairman  
Steve Slade.



**BEMERTON Heath Harlequins will make no decision on possible promotion to the Southern League until they see how the season pans out.**

While Sydenhams Premier title rivals Winchester City are champing at the bit to regain their Southern League status after a two-year absence, opinion is likely to be divided at Bemerton as to whether a rise in status would make or break the Wiltshire club.

Cautious chairman Steve Slade has always maintained that until the Harlequins have established a decent fan base and generated the money to move on, promotion could do more harm than good.

Facility-wise Bemerton are all set for the Southern League, but Slade has seen too many examples of clubs jumping the gun in their eagerness to progress and having it backfire on them.

"You look at some of the clubs that have gone up from the Wessex, like Andover and Lymington & New Milton, and it's destroyed them," he said.

"Andover have gone out of business and look at (the old)

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**NON-LEAGUE REPORTER**

Lymington & New Milton.

"That club won the Wessex League five times and had more helpers down there than anyone could wish for."

"But you go there now and there are only about two people running it and no one's watching them. It's a shell of the old club and I wouldn't want that happening to us. You have to go up when everything is right."

Having finished third and second in the league in the last two seasons, Bemerton are aiming to go one better this time.

But, despite their lofty position, they are only marginally better off gate-wise than Lymington & NM's successors New Milton Town, who are third to bottom.

"We've got a cou-

ple of blokes and a dog watching us play. Our support base is shocking," admitted Slade.

"When we played Downton recently we only got 130-odd in and that was for a local derby."

"We're getting a good reputation because we've been competing up at the top for three seasons now, but we need an FA Cup or Vase run to grip people's imagination and build a fan base."

"We had the opportunity to do that this season but shot ourselves in the foot in both competitions."

"Bashley did it when I played there. There were 3,000 there for the (1987/88) Vase semi-final and some of those stayed with us. That's the only way to do it."

"Everything's up together for promotion at Bemerton, the ground's been passed and everything's in place. But it's whether we can afford to go to the next league."

"But there's a long way to go in the league yet, so don't let's try and jump fences before they're there."

"If it becomes reality, we'll talk about it then."

"We'll discuss it democratically towards the end of the season and see where it goes."

**'You look at some of the clubs that have gone up from the Wessex and it's destroyed them'**

## Local and national football fixtures for the week ahead

Monday, January 16

**BARCLAYS PREMIER LEAGUE**

Wigan v Man City.

**SYDENHAMS WESSEX LEAGUE**

Premier Division: Bemerton Ht v Totton & Elring.

**WYVERN COMBINATION LEAGUE**

Division One East: Winchester City v Alresford.

Tuesday, January 17

**FA CUP**

Third round replay: Leicester v Nottm Forest.

**EVO-STIK SOUTHERN LEAGUE**

Premier Division: Frome v Bashley.

Division One South & West: Thatcham v Tiverton.

**SYDENHAMS WESSEX LEAGUE**

Division One: Amesbury v Brockenhurst.

**WYVERN COMBINATION LEAGUE**

Premier Division: Dorchester v Christchurch.

Moneyfields v Newport Iow, Poole Trn v Eastleigh.

Wednesday, January 18

**FA CUP**

Fourth round proper: Whitley Bay v South Park.

Tunbridge Wells v St Ives Trn.

Willand Rvrs v Staveley MW.

Shortwood Utd v Enfield 1893.

Newcastle Benfield v Herne Bay.

Bournemouth Poppies v Royston Trn.

Bethnal Green, Newport Pagnell Trn v Ashton.

Dunston Uts, Biffen AFC v West Auckland Trn.

Tividale v Birfield.

Gresley v Three Bridges.

Billingham Synthonia v Runcorn Trn.

Reading Trn v Larkhall Ath.

Oadby Trn v Amthill Trn.

**SYDENHAMS WESSEX LEAGUE**

Premier Division: Bemerton Ht v Alton.

Christchurch v Fawley.

Fareham v Hayling.

Hornsea, Laverstock & Tiverton v Romsey.

Lympstone v Alresford.

Moneyfields v Wimborne.

Hampshire v New Milton v GE Hamble.

Newport Iow v Winchester.

Portsmouth v Swansea.

Romsey v Fareham.

Torquay v Eastbourne.

Welling v Farnborough.

**EVO-STIK SOUTHERN LEAGUE**

Premier Division: Arlesey Bedf, Barwell v AFC Totton.

Bashley v Hitchin.

Brackley v Frome.

Chesham v Stourbridge.

Chippenham v Cambridge City.

Cirencester v Redditch.

Helem Hempstead v Banbury.

Leamington v Oxford.

**WYVERN COMBINATION LEAGUE**

WCI Cup quarter-final: AFC Portchester v GE Hamble.

Division One East: Alresford v Tadley Calleva.

Alton v Horndean.

Hayling Utd v Petersfield.

Whitchurch v Fareham Town.

Division One West: East Cowes Vics v Verwood.

Fawley v Lympstone Town.

Romsey v Totton & Elring.

**MAGNATA CARE HAMPSHIRE LEAGUE**

Quarter-Final: Andover Lions v Mottisfont.

B Village v Horndean Utd.

Broughton v Fair Oak.

Four Marks v Durley.

Infinity v Upham.

Portsmouth RN v Crusaders.

**PEHPL Cup quarter-finals:** Hedge End Rangers v Locks Heath, University of Portsmouth v Golden Common.

**Division One South & West:** Bishops Cleeve v Bideford, Bridgwater v Hungerford.

**Division One:** Cinderford, Halesowen v Paulton, Mangotsfield v Brentford, North Leigh, Sholing v Clevedon, Stourport v Stevenage, Sheff Wed v Hartlepools, Wycombe v Rochdale.

**League 2:** Aldershot v Crayton Stanley, Bradford v Burton Albion, Cheltenham v Bristol Rovers, Crewe v Dag & Red, Gillingham v AFC Wimbledon, Morecambe v Torquay, Northampton v Barnet, Oxford Utd v Hereford, Plymouth v Crawley Town, Rotherham v Port Vale, Shrewsbury v Southend, Swindon v Macclesfield.

**FA VASE:** AFC Telford v Cambridge Utd, Alfreton Trn v Kidderminster, Brantree Town v Stockport, Darlington v Fleetwood Town, Gateshead v Lincoln City, Grimsby v Bath City, Mansfield v Hayes & Yeading, Newport County v Forest Green, Southport v Luton, Tamworth v Barrow, Wrexham v Kettering, York v Ebbsfleet United.

**SOUTHAMPTON SENIOR CUP:** Quarter-Finals: AFC Stoneham v Eastleigh Res, Netley Central Sports v Sporting BW.

**NORTH HANTS INTERMEDIATE CUP:** Quarter-Final: Ludgershall Sports v Otterbourne Res.

**WYVERN COMBINATION LEAGUE:** WCI Cup quarter-final: AFC Portchester v GE Hamble.

**PREMIER DIVISION:** AFC Totton v Wimborne, Fleet Town v Sholing.

**Division One East:** Alresford v Tadley Calleva.

**Division One West:** East Cowes Vics v Verwood, Fawley v Lympstone Town, Romsey v Totton & Elring.

**MAGNATA CARE HAMPSHIRE LEAGUE 2004:** Andover Lions v Mottisfont, B Village v Horndean Utd, Broughton v Fair Oak, Four Marks v Durley, Infinity v Upham, Portsmouth RN v Crusaders.

**EMAIL YOUR CLUB NEWS TO echosport@dailyecho.co.uk**

# Non-league Football



## Gray doesn't like to be beside the seaside ...

**FURIOUS** Basingstoke Town boss Frank Gray blasted referee Brett Huxtable after seeing striker David Pratt sent off during Tuesday's 2-1 defeat at Weston-super-Mare.

The Torrington official showed Pratt, pictured, a straight red card for a tackle on Jamie Price just before half-time.

Gray had a great view of the challenge, which took place right in front of the dugout, and felt the decision to dismiss Pratt capped a bad night for the referee.

"A lot went on tonight that you have to question," said Gray afterwards.

"David's tackle was a foul, but no more. There was very little contact and the same lad had been booked five minutes earlier for feigning injury, which

### DID YOU KNOW?

THREE years ago David Pratt – then a Chippenham Town striker – was thought to have set a new world record for the fastest ever sending-off in his side's 2-1 Southern Premier Division loss at Bashley.

Pratt lunged at Bash midfieler Chris Knowles straight from the kick-off and received his marching orders from referee Justin Amey with just three seconds on the clock.

tells you something.

"David was sent off because his foot was off the ground, which the referee deemed reckless, but he didn't even make contact with his opponent, who was squealing before he went to ground to make the officials think he had been caught."

"The assistant is supposed to help the referee, but he did not even flag when the tackle happened. The next minute, the referee is consulting

him and showing a red card."

The match was finely balanced at 1-1 when Pratt got his marching orders. Stoke's Angus MacDonald had levelled against the run of play on 39 minutes.

But Weston made their extra man tell – Kane Ingram scoring direct from a 60th-minute corner to earn them all three points.

The result kept Basingstoke static in ninth in the Blue Square Bet South – eight points off the play-off places.

# WELCOME MATT

## City signal intent with Robbie signing

**SALISBURY** City have underlined their resolve to climb the Blue Square Bet South by bringing back fans' favourite Robbie Matthews on a permanent basis.

Despite outstanding success in knockout competitions this season, the Whites' league form has deteriorated, prompting the board to give manager Darrell Clarke the go-ahead to strengthen his squad, writes WENDY GEE.

Matthews, signed for an undisclosed fee from Newport County, has agreed a deal that will keep him with the club until the end of the 2013.

He is joined at Old Sarum by goalkeeper Will Puddy from Evo-Stik Southern Premier side Chippenham Town, and Arlesey Town midfielder Stuart Sinclair, brother of former Whites favourite Robbie.

In addition, talented winger Charlie Losasso is back on loan from Reading until the end of the season and defender Danny Webb is now a contracted Salisbury player after completing a permanent move from Bath City.

Matthews, 29, is already part of the furniture Old Sarum having progressed through Salisbury's youth and reserve set-ups into the senior squad.

He left the Whites in 2001 and, after spells with Bemerton Heath Harlequins and Eastleigh, where he had trials for Saints, rejoined them in September 2004 and played a key role in their climb up the non-League pyramid.

Matthews parted company with his hometown club again in 2009 to join Kidderminster Harriers and has since scored five goals in 44 games for Newport during an 18-month spell with the BSB Premier club.

He returned to the Ray Mac earlier this season on loan and has recently spent time with Forest Green Rovers.

Salisbury, whose history-making

surge to the FA Cup third round was finally halted 3-1 at Sheffield United last Saturday, are now determined to finish the league season on a high.

A club statement said:

"The signing of Robbie

Darrell Clarke is currently reorganising the squad and players will be moving both in and out.

"The recent signings will help strengthen the squad in key areas and Darrell has the full support of the board as he continues to make changes that will help the Whites end an exciting season with a good league finish."

Things didn't go to plan on Tuesday night, however, as Salisbury managed only a 1-1 draw at bottom-of-the-table Thurrock.

New signings Puddy and Sinclair played, but Whites were still awaiting international clearance for Matthews and, without him, they lacked a cutting edge.

Defender Chris Giles prodded City ahead on 36 minutes after Brian Dutton had flicked Ryan Brett's free kick back across goal.

But Sam Cutler equalised five minutes from time and Lee Boylan very nearly clinched it for Thurrock in a stoppage-time one-on-one with Puddy, but clipped his shot over.



Matthews will add some fire-power that will see the Whites move up the league table after an historic FA Cup run.

"It's no secret that

## Non-league News

### Browned off ...

**HAMWORTHY** United boss Simon Browne has launched a blistering attack on Hayling United's pitch.

Browne, whose side lost 2-1 away to the Sydenhams Premier basement boys last Saturday, branded the Hayling College playing surface an "absolute disgrace" and labelled it a "cabbage patch," writes Neil Perrett.

"The pitch is not fit for the Wessex League or for any other level of football," claimed the former Salisbury City defender, left.

 "I know it may sound like sour grapes because we lost, but I would have said the same if we had won. "The Wessex League is hot on one person standing in the dugout and people swearing, which they should be applauded for.

"There is a process in place for changing facilities and floodlights, but there doesn't seem to be anything about the standard of a pitch, which is ridiculous.

"It is not good enough and, the longer people put up with it, the longer they will get away with it."

Responding to Browne's attack, Hayling chairman Argyll McLetchie said: "His comments are totally out of order. The pitch is absolutely fine and it was a well deserved win."

### Woodsy weapon

**BOSS** Tom Killick has revealed one of the secret weapons in Poole Town's armoury – his assistant James Wood.

Killick highlighted the work of his number two in helping to make the Dolphins play-off contenders in their first season as an Evo-Stik Southern League club.

"Woodsy has been a revelation for me this season," said Killick.

"The players have the utmost respect for him and he always plays a huge role in what we do.

"I want to give credit where it is due. Woodsy is very good at what he does and, as a club, we have got a lot to be thankful for that we have him."

### Secretary wanted

**AFC Totton** are looking for a new secretary after Norman Cook resigned for personal reasons.

# 2012 HAMPSHIRE CROSS-COUNTRY CHAMPIONSHIPS



SOUTHAMPTON'S SENIOR MENS' SQUAD Order no: 13718623



LYMPINGTON TRI CLUB Order no: 13718644



ELLA PRINSEP

**SOUTHAMPTON AC** had a magnificent Hampshire Cross Country Championships, winning five team and three individual medals.

The men's senior team finished a point clear of Winchester AC thanks to Steve Phillips (4th), Matthew Bennett in 10th, Tim Spencer in 15th, Jamie Knapp (20th), Tom Muddiman in 25th and Matt Hibberd (26th).

The women's team – Ceri Mitchell (2nd), Laura Brenton (10th), Nicci Blandford (20th) and Laura Connolly (37th) – finished in third.

The young athletes had a magnificent championship with George Butler taking the silver medal in the under-15 boys' race.

He was backed up by Lucas Clements (8th), Jamie Abrahams (11th) and Alex Prinsep (20th) as their team finished second, just a point adrift of City of Portsmouth AC.

Southampton's under-13 boys took bronze thanks to Sam Costley (10th),



SOUTHAMPTON AC UNDER-13 GIRLS Order no: 13718622

Luke Powell (13th), Owen Lawrence (14th) and Blake Miller (23rd).

The under-17 men – Niall Holt (14th), Amarpal Gill in 20th, David Fisher (21st) and Jack Lynch (24th) – were fourth overall.

Lizzie Payne, third in the under-13

girls group, is still young enough to compete in the same age group in 2013.

Jessie Tucker in 18th, Rosie Lynch (23rd) and Aimee Coppin (29th) saw the girls miss out on a team bronze by just a point.

Southampton's under-15 girls took silver, falling just a point short of the gold despite all four scoring girls coming in the top 15 – Cait Stewart (6th), Abbie Fisher (8th), Briallen Taylor (11th) and Alice Spiers (15th).



STUBBINGTON GREEN (from left): Emily Foran, Sharon White, Rachel Openshaw and Penny Forse. Order no: 13718648



EASTLEIGH RC SENIORS AND VETS Order no: 13718632

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# CHAMPIONSHIPS, DIBDEN INCLOSURE



WINCHESTER &amp; DISTRICT BOYS UNDER-13s



SOUTHAMPTON BOYS UNDER-13s

Order no: 13718641

# For Southampton AC



AIMEE COPPIN



NEW FOREST UNDER-13s



LUCY WILDASH

(Submitted picture)



WINCHESTER &amp; DISTRICT GIRLS UNDER-13s



NEW FOREST GIRLS UNDER-12s

Order no: 13718627

**SOUTH HAMPSHIRE AREA ARE IN THE DAILY ECHO**

# Did You Know?

Average Attendances 2011/12

Premier League	
Manchester United	75,452
Arsenal	59,960
Newcastle United	48,865
Manchester City	47,012
Liverpool	44,857
Chelsea	41,632
Sunderland	38,830
Tottenham Hotspur	36,070
Aston Villa	34,650
Everton	33,406
Stoke City	27,221
Norwich City	26,515
Fulham	25,314
Wolverhampton Wanderers	25,161
West Bromwich Albion	24,794
Bolton Wanderers	23,125
Blackburn Rovers	22,916
Swansea City	19,822
Wigan Athletic	17,661
Queens Park Rangers	17,024

Championship

West Ham United	29,888
Derby County	26,594
<b>SAINTS</b>	
Leeds United	23,733
Leicester City	23,620
Cardiff City	23,272
Nottingham Forest	22,222
Brighton and Hove Albion	20,092
Hill City	18,922
Birmingham City	18,682
Reading	18,552
Ipswich Town	18,395
Middlesbrough	18,164
Coventry City	14,812
Crystal Palace	14,780
Burnley	14,479
Portsmouth	14,203
Bristol City	13,250
Watford	12,730
Blackpool	12,621
Millwall	11,554
Barnsley	10,718
Doncaster Rovers	9,811
Peterborough United	9,233

League One

Sheffield Wednesday	20,041
Sheffield United	18,558
Charlton Athletic	17,005
Huddersfield Town	13,366
Preston North End	12,333
Milton Keynes Dons	8,217
Chesterfield	6,572
Notts County	6,422
<b>BOURNEMOUTH</b>	
Brentford	5,883
Hartlepool United	5,722
Carlisle United	5,128
Wycombe Wanderers	4,994
Tranmere Rovers	4,994
Oldham Athletic	4,723
Scunthorpe United	4,461
Walsall	4,407
Exeter City	4,327
Leyton Orient	4,210
Yeovil Town	4,031
Colchester United	3,856
Stevenage	3,752
Bury	3,595
Rochdale	2,888

League Two

Bradford City	10,280
Swindon Town	7,886
Oxford United	7,590
Plymouth Argyle	6,734
Bristol Rovers	6,121
Southend United	5,886
Shrewsbury Town	5,489
Gillingham	5,482
Port Vale	4,919
AFC Wimbledon	4,403
Northampton Town	4,401
Crewe Alexandra	3,856
Rotherham United	3,786
Cheltenham Town	3,359
Crawley Town	3,178
Aldershot Town	3,057
Burton Albion	2,951
Torquay United	2,720
Morecambe	2,340
Barnet	2,257
Macclesfield Town	2,222
Dagenham & Redbridge	2,161
Hereford United	2,115
Accrington Stanley	1,607

# Non-league Football

**Simon Carter**

simon.carter@dailyecho.co.uk

**SPORTS EDITOR**

**NON league football is littered with stories of small clubs who tried to shoulder their way into the promised land of the Football League, only to fall flat on their faces.**

In recent years, Grays and Histon have both come close to winning an improbable promotion into League 2.

I use the 'improbable' because those clubs are not established non league ones, in the way many who have won promotion to the Football League have been.

I'm thinking of Scarborough, who under Neil Warnock were the first non league club to win automatic promotion to the old Fourth Division in 1986/87.

I'm thinking of Barnet, Wycombe, Kidderminster, Cheltenham and Yeovil.

Then there are the clubs who have fought their way back into the Football League after relegation - Doncaster, Carlisle, Exeter, Torquay, Oxford, Shrewsbury, Hereford.

Grays and Histon came from the lower depths of non league football, exploding onto the Conference scene in the noughties.

Despite crowds struggling to approach 1,000 at times, both finished in the play-offs one season.

Grays even won the FA Trophy two seasons running, and were a launch pad for the likes of Michael Kightly, Aaron McLean and Gary Hooper to kick-start impressive Football League and, in the latter's case, Scottish League careers.

In their first season in the Conference, 2005/06, Grays belted 94 goals - 48 of them away from home - and finished third, only to lose in the play-offs. Their average league crowd was under 1,500.

Among their squad was current Eastleigh striker Jamie Slabber.

In 2008/09, the equally unfashionable Histon, from East Anglia, also finished third, also losing in the play-offs. Their average crowd was under 1,200.

Both clubs have since been relegated.

I mention those clubs, and list their average attendances, for the following reason ...

In last weekend's *Sports Pink* there was a fascinating interview, conducted by Wendy Gee, with Eastleigh's new majority shareholder Stuart Donald and Neil Fox, of Bridle Insurance.

They talked of their dream of bringing Football League action to the Silverlake Stadium, and of creating a team which could bring crowds of around 3,000 to Stoneham Lane.

I wish them all the best in the world, but to realise their dream will see a rewriting of history.

Before I go any further, though,

# Can the Bridle



**GRAYS DAYS:** Eastleigh striker Jamie Slabber was part of the Grays side that took the Conference by storm back in 2005/06.



**BIG PLANS:** Eastleigh's Silverlake Stadium. Will it ever hold 3,000 crowds for league games?

# achieved at the

ask this question: Why not Eastleigh?

Surely the south coast can support a Conference Premier club?

Yes, I'm not talking Football League at the moment, let's not run before we can walk.

Eastleigh - currently averaging 494 through the gate in the Blue Square Bet South, and lying 14th out of 22 in

the average crowds table - are a club with ambitions first and foremost to win promotion to the elite division of English non

league football.

**That should not be considered an unlikely dream.**

At present, there are no south coast clubs in the Blue Square Premier.

There were two last season, but Sussex pair Crawley Town (champions) and Eastbourne Borough (relegated) went their separate ways.

Crawley, despite running away with the title and having the largest profile of any non league club in modern history due to

also getting through to the fifth round of the FA Cup, only averaged crowds of just over 2,500.

Eastbourne averaged just over 1,000, though admittedly they went down.

At present, there are no clubs in the Conference Premier below a line drawn from Bath in north Somerset to Hayes in West London.

The only other club south of Essex are Ebbsfleet. So, as we can see, there is a gap. Weymouth, Dorchester Town,



**DONALD**



**FOX**

**CONTACT THE ECHO SPORTS DESK AT echosport@dailyecho.co.uk**

# Non-league Football

# *vision really be*



# Silverlake ...?

Basingstoke Town, Farnborough, Havant & Waterlooville ... these are all very well established non league clubs who no doubt feel they would not be out of place in the Conference Premier.

Indeed, prior to financial problems, Weymouth and Farnborough were there at some point in the noughties.

But the other three have rarely looked like taking the bull by the horns and making a concerted bid for the unofficial Division 5.

Havant & Waterlooville have been

treading water in recent years, after most people thought they would be able to have a real go at promotion after their stunning FA Cup run of 2007/08, which was financially rewarding.

So, to repeat, why not Eastleigh?

Population-wise, it might not be the size of somewhere like Newport in south Wales, who still can't average crowds of 3,000 in the Conference despite having an urban population of over 140,000 and a former Football League fanbase.

But there is a large hinterland if

the greater Southampton area is included, and then you have the Pompey and Bournemouth conurbations either side.

Whether Eastleigh would ever pull in many fans from either of those population centres, even if they reached the Football League, is unknown, though I would suggest probably not.

They would need to realise most of their support from the Southampton and Eastleigh area.

Three thousand fans is a lot for a non league club without any real



history – even in a borough with a population of around 122,000 (2001 official Census figure).

That's not being disrespectful. After all, Eastleigh were a Wessex League club only nine years ago playing in front of crowds of under 100.

To get where they have done, technically playing in Division 6 (South), is a fantastic achievement.

They have multiplied their attendances five-fold in under a decade.

Now the new majority shareholders want to do the same again, plus some.

*The main question mark has to be over the crowds. Eastleigh can realistically pull in, rather than how far the club can progress.*

Money, especially if it's cannily spent in the transfer market, is a necessity.

It helps at the very top – hello, Manchester City – and it can help in non league football.

But what can't be as easily grown is a fanbase.

Look at Crawley again. Currently top of League 2 in their first ever league season, they are still only managing an average crowd of just over 3,100.

Those are the sort of attendances that Stewart Donald and Neil Fox would like to see at Eastleigh one day. But an established former non league club like Crawley can only attract that many after throwing God knows how much money at it and enjoying phenomenal success.

I am not wishing to put a downer on Bridle's plans for Eastleigh, far from it. I'm just highlighting the scale of their ambition.

Look at some of the clubs currently in League 2 who have recently come up from the non league scene.

Morecambe, Macclesfield, Barnet, Accrington ... none of them are averaging 3,000.

Of the bottom 11 clubs in this season's League 2 average attendance table, ALL of them have played non league football since 1999.

And the only five clubs in the 24-strong Conference Premier currently averaging over 3,000 are all former Football League clubs, including Luton Town who top the table with 6,168.

Even north Hampshire club Aldershot averaged less than 3,000 when they walked away with the Conference title in 2007/08.

That was the same season that Salisbury City, a far more established non league club than the Spittires, averaged around 1,500 in their first year at the elite non league level.

Can Eastleigh be bigger than them, in terms of crowds anyway?

Who knows in football?

Who would have thought, in January 2010, that Alan Pardew would be managing a side who could beat Manchester United 3-0 within two years?

Who would have thought that a youngster who hadn't played a single senior game for Saints two years ago, Alex Chamberlain, would move to Arsenal for around £12m 18 months later?

I'll ask the same question again, for emphasis: Can Eastleigh be bigger than some current Football League clubs, in terms of crowds?

I hope so, for it would be a great south coast success story, and the more of those the better.

It will certainly be fascinating to watch them try.

## Did You Know?

### AVERAGE ATTENDANCES 2011/12

Blue Square Conference	
Luton Town	6,168
Wrexham	3,790
Stockport County	3,281
Grimbsy Town	3,159
York City	3,149
Cambridge United	2,564
Mansfield Town	2,517
Lincoln City	2,504
AFC Telford United	2,294
Kidderminster Harriers	1,948
Darlington	1,885
Fleetwood Town	1,781
Kettering Town	1,552
Barrow	1,419
Newport County	1,403
Southport	1,271
Tamworth	1,084
Ebbsfleet United	1,071
Forest Green Rovers	1,071
Gateshead	981
Braintree Town	929
Bath City	900
Alfreton Town	864
Hayes & Yeading United	369

### Blue Square Bet South

Woking	1,627
Dartford	1,313
Chelmsford City	951
Dover Athletic	897
Salisbury City	760
Sutton United	754
Welling United	746
Eastbourne Borough	680
Farnborough	666
Havant and Waterlooville	662
Tonbridge Angels	619
Truro City	605
Dorchester Town	501
<b>Eastleigh</b>	<b>494</b>
Bromley	469
Hampton & Richmond Borough	469
Staines Town	452
Basingstoke Town	403
Weston-super-Mare	386
Thurrock	364
Maidenhead United	311
Boreham Wood	250

### Southern League Premier Division

Leamington	558
Weymouth	551
<b>AFC Totton</b>	<b>413</b>
St. Albans City	404
Stourbridge	400
Chippenham Town	386
Hitchin Town	374
Cambridge City	324
Chesham United	324
Frome Town	302
Bedford Town	298
Redditch United	273
Hemel Hempstead Town	260
Brackley Town	259
Banbury United	254
Oxford City	235
<b>Bashley</b>	<b>229</b>
Barwell	166
Arlesey Town	164
Swindon Supermarine	156
Cirencester Town	133
Evesham United	126

### Southern League Divison One S & W

Poole Town	288
Halesowen Town	268
<b>Wimborne Town</b>	<b>251</b>
Gosport Borough	250
Tiverton Town	242
Bridgwater Town	200
Taunton Town	189
Paulton Rovers	187
Mangotsfield United	177
Bideford	172
Yate Town	159
<b>Sholing</b>	<b>139</b>
Didcot Town	132
Cinderford Town	126
Thatcham Town	115
Clevedon Town	113
Hungerford Town	101
Bishops Cleeve	97
Abingdon United	87
Stourport Swifts	81
North Leigh	79

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**Inside the Divide**  
By Richard Wilson

**Sportsbookofthemonth.com**  
price: £11.92, saving 30% on rrp

A widespread sense of indifference towards Scottish football has developed across England over the past 30-odd years.

Where once players for our top-flight clubs were regularly sourced north of the border (Scottish players are credited with introducing 'pass and move' to the English game), nowadays they're much more likely to hail from continental Europe or beyond.

Yet while English supporters' apathy towards Scottish football has slowly taken root, there is one tartan-clad fixture which continues to stand out: the always noisy, often disorderly, occasionally lawless and invariably tumultuous Old Firm derby, a game which epitomises the phrase 'intense rivalry'.

It wasn't always like this.

After the teams first met at Celtic Park in 1888 (Celtic won 5-2), the players and officials enjoyed supper together followed by an evening of what was described as "the happiest chapter".

Indeed, so convivial were relations between Rangers and Celtic that they continued to hold post-match social evenings and would invite each other to watch English teams play at their respective grounds.

It was not to last.

For a variety of partly religious, partly nationalistic reasons, sectarianism became – and remained – an ugly, bigoted feature of the Old Firm derby.

A deeply partisan undercurrent is still evident on match day.

In fact, the specific timing of the fixture about which Richard Wilson writes and bases this excellent football / social history – the New Year derby involving the pair – had been banned for a decade before it was re-introduced in 2010.

Wilson, a Glaswegian, captures the Old Firm matchday mood perfectly.

Whereas some British derby games are renowned for their friendly nature, when Glasgow's 'big two' meet, there's little room for affability.

Significantly then, Wilson sets the match in a wider, social context, explaining why there is so much animosity between supporters.

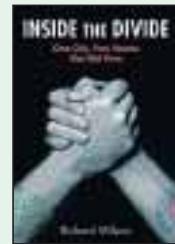
There have been several books written about the Old Firm, but Wilson uses the fixture to develop his theme and go beyond a single football match, examining the integral role the game continues to play in working class life.

It makes for a fascinating, thought-provoking read – one which could resurrect our interest in the Scottish game.

● The Sports Pink has teamed up with Sports Book of the Month and have a copy of *Inside the Divide* to give away.

To win this week's sports book, go to their website ([www.sportsbookofthemonth.com](http://www.sportsbookofthemonth.com)) and answer the following question:

**Who were the last non-Old Firm team to be crowned Scottish champions?**



## Bridging gap between academies and grassroots...

# Elite Training Centre has been going from strength to strength



**IT has already produced several academy players and is giving more young footballers the chance to maximise their talent.**

The Elite Training Centre (ETC) was founded less than four years ago in order to "bridge the gap" between Football League/Premier League academies and grassroots football.

It has grown from strength to strength, with weekly training venues well established in Southampton (Wide Lane), Wimborne, Chichester and Fareham.

Earlier this week the ETC opened its latest centre at Southampton Solent University's state-of-the-art Test Park Sports Ground.

Darren Waterman, Andy Rowles and Dave Eldridge, all UEFA A and B Licence coaches with a PE teaching background, founded ETC in 2008.

Since then, 38 youngsters have been snapped up by academies and schools of excellence along the south coast at Saints, AFC Bournemouth, Brighton and Pompey.

But so far the ETC's star graduate

**Simon Walter**  
[simon.walter@dailyecho.co.uk](mailto:simon.walter@dailyecho.co.uk)

is 16-year-old John Swift, who was playing Tyro League football for Pace Panthers not so long ago.

He was released from Pompey's academy as an Under-11 and was also shown the door by Chelsea.

But, following coaching from the ETC, he attracted interest from several clubs, including Saints – and is now back with Chelsea as a star of their youth team.

An England Under-17 international, Swift, right, is a tall, athletic midfielder who already has a lucrative Adidas boot deal as well as a

three-year professional contract waiting to be signed when he turns 17 in June.

A quick search on You Tube shows why he is so highly-rated and he credits the ETC for his development.

"Having been released by two professional clubs I thought my chance had gone," said Swift, who was at Test Park this week to help launch the ETC's latest venture.

### Better understanding

"Darren, Dave and Andy worked really hard with me on my technical skills as well as giving me a better understanding of my positional play which academies expect."

"They also helped me with my confidence which had been severely knocked and when I was approached by professional clubs a year later

I was more than ready to go back in."

"They were instrumental in the important part of my final development to prepare

me for the professional game. I will be ever grateful to the lads for their invaluable help."

"I'd recommend any young player who, like me, has a dream to play professional football, to go to their centres and develop their skills to a very high level."

Coventry City striker Lukas Jutkiewicz, who grew up in Southampton, also credits the ETC coaches for their role in his development.

The ETC focuses on the coaching of 8-13 year-olds and has sessions for outfield players on four nights during the week at Test Park (Mondays 5.30pm-7pm) Boundary Oak Prep School, Fareham (Tuesdays 5.30pm-7pm), University of Chichester (Thursdays 5.30pm-7pm), and Queen Elizabeth II Leisure Centre, Wimborne (Fridays 6.30pm-8pm).

It also caters for many goalkeepers under the tutelage of former Saints and Wales star Paul Jones at their original Wide Lane venue on Saturday mornings (9am-12pm).

● For more information, see [elite-trainingcentre.co.uk](http://elite-trainingcentre.co.uk), email [info@elite-trainingcentre.co.uk](mailto:info@elite-trainingcentre.co.uk) or ring 01329 285 968.



**TODAY'S NON-LEAGUE FOOTBALL ACTION - SEE PAGE 13**

# Mixed fortunes for the South's speedway clubs

THE co-promoter of the Wightlink Islanders speedway team has insisted he will not bankrupt the club by bowing to riders' "excessive" pay demands.

The Isle of Wight-based side endured a disappointing 2011 season, finishing second-from-bottom in the British National League.

The team's bosses have promised to lead a turn around in fortunes this year.

## Speedway is Dave's business

**BUSINESSMAN** Dave Locke has revealed that his new-found love of the shale sport led to Coastal Aluminium agreeing the biggest sponsorship deal in Poole Speedway's history.

The local company was this week confirmed as the club's main sponsor on a lucrative three-year contract.

Pirates promoter Matt Ford reported the package as a "substantial six-figure deal".

Coastal Aluminium managing director Locke watched his first speedway meeting just four years ago when he visited Wimborne Road, and he is now an ever-present spectator on bend three at the track.

He said: "We have just purchased the business."

"When I moved to Poole four years ago, we came along for a meeting and were hooked."

"We were a small sponsor for the past few years and I said, one day, we were going to be on the front of those race jackets. And now we are."

"We like to think we are the leaders in our field and Poole Pirates are certainly the leaders in the speedway field."

Coastal Aluminium director Graham Edgson added: "With Poole Speedway going into Europe this year, that is extra coverage and extra profile."

"Although Coastal is Poole-based and a Poole brand, we have got a national dealer network, from Jersey up to Scotland."

"This will give us national coverage to promote the Poole and Coastal Aluminium brand."

But co-promoter Chris Hunt warned they will not put the club's financial future at risk.

"We know that we must do better this year after a season full of injuries and bad luck, which resulted in a poor showing for us," he said.

"Sometimes some of the riders seemed to be riding within their comfort zone but this year we need them to be ready and hungry from the off."

"A winning team is hugely important to the Island, especially with us being a standalone club."

"Some riders that have been phoning us for team places have ridiculous pay demands."

"We won't break the bank for a team that's going to score 60 points, or the Islanders as a club won't survive."

"I know that it's an expensive business for riders in this league, paying

for equipment et cetera, but some of the pay demands are excessive and it's a league that we just can't have crazy pay demands in."

"It has to be said that we won't bankrupt the club with excessive pay demands and lose the speedway."

"That said, I am sure the riders that we have are more than capable of getting us into a play off place this year."

## Bournemouth gateway into Europe action

**MATT** Ford is hoping to charter flights from Bournemouth to take Poole Pirates fans to the club's eagerly-awaited European speedway fixtures.

Poole are scheduled to compete in the inaugural European Championship competition next season.

Ford wants to ensure plenty of supporters follow Pirates for their away meetings against Holstebro (Denmark) and Piraterna (Sweden).

He said: "One of the things we're looking at is possibly taking a plane packed with Pirates fans over to Denmark and then, maybe, to Sweden when we go there for the return leg."

"If we can charter one and take it from Bournemouth, then that would be wonderful."

"If not and the worst comes to the worst, I'm sure many of us can travel to the usual airports and go from London."

**European Championship fixtures:**  
May 7 Piraterna (h), May 9  
Holstebro (a), June 4 Holstebro (h),



**MATT** Ford secured the most lucrative sponsorship package in Poole Pirates' history and then insisted: This deal can keep us on top.

The reigning Elite League and Knockout Cup champions will now be officially known as the Poole Coastal Aluminium Pirates after signing a three-year contract with the Holton Heath-based company.

Wimborne Road promoter Ford predicted that the six-figure deal – which he revealed was worth more than £200,000 – was the biggest of its kind in British speedway.

Less than six weeks after an appeal for new backers was published in the *Bournemouth Echo*, Ford, pictured centre, finalised terms with Coastal Aluminium managing director Dave

Locke, right, and director Graham Edgson, left, to take over from outgoing major sponsor Castle Cover.

Ford confirmed the funding would allow Pirates to continue their on-track success.

He said: "We have been lucky enough since I took over the club along with Mike Golding, going back to 1999, that we have always had a main sponsor with very prestigious companies like Castle Cover and Rias.

"Now, being able to bring in one of the leading local companies, Coastal Aluminium, is a tremendous thing for the club. It means we can still dip our toe in the transfer market and it keeps the club on an even keel, which is almost impossible in any professional sport."

"The contract secures speedway in the town. I have always made it abundantly clear that the club only sur-

vives because of the people that support it in respect of sponsors and, of course, the fans."

Ford added: "You will see in the next couple of years that we can use these monies to make sure the club stays at the point it has been for the past 10 years – in signing decent new, young talent."

"I would like to dip into the transfer market at least once this coming season. And we want to keep the club exactly where it has been."

"This contract is the best contract the club has had. It is a substantial six-figure deal – it doesn't start with a one."

Pirates will also benefit from additional rewards if anyone places orders via the club for Coastal Aluminium's range of domestic or commercial windows, doors and conservatories.



## Portsmouth track has gone to the dogs

EVERY dog has its day and Hampshire's last greyhound track is vanishing fast.

More than 80 years after it opened in 1931, the Portsmouth Greyhound Stadium – between the old nautical scrapyard beside the M275 and the modern Mountbatten Centre sports complex – is being flattened, writes **Glynn Williams**.

Now there are just memories of race greats like legendary trainer George Curtis who started his career there in the 1930s as a tote runner before becoming a trainer in 1944 and showcasing canine greats like Ballyregan Bob and Yankee Express in a seven decade career.

Once the stadium, with 1,200 capacity in the stands and three bars, held racing on Tuesday, Fridays and Saturdays, with a dozen or so races a night, but that action ended in March 2010.

In fact the ground had been bought by the South East England Development Agency (SEEDA) in 2008 and leased back for the Tipner Regeneration Project now overseen by the Homes and Communities Agency to transform the city gateway with more than 500 new homes and a new motorway junction.

# Non-league Football

## Manor hand Westover a first defeat

### HAYWARD SATURDAY LEAGUE

TERRY Colbourne and Mike Williams netted for DIVISION TWO pacesetters Westover Bournemouth Reserves but their unbeaten record was ruined when Bournemouth Manor Reserves upended them 3-2 with goals from Danny Palmer, Rob Walter and Paul Lines.

Third-placed New Milton Linnets were unable to capitalise, going down 5-2 when Queens Park Athletic hit them with a Mark McCarthy hat-trick and further goals from Lloyd Pearce and Stuart Senior.

At the other end of the table St Mary's eased away from the drop zone after spanking fellow stragglers Fordingbridge Turks 5-0 through Sam Fudge, Craig Seymour and a Drew McGregor hat-trick.

Old Oakmeadians recorded their first win of the season in the PREMIER DIVISION, moving off the bottom of the table after Keith FitzJohn bagged a hat-trick in their 5-1 triumph over Hamworthy Recreation. Sam Elliott (pen) and Lee Wilkins were the other Old Oaks marksmen with Luke Dawe providing some consolation for the Hammers.

Reigning champions Westover Bournemouth climb to second place after Ali Paton, Ed Ewens, Hamed Faal and Jon Woods ensured a 4-1 victory over Parley Sports who replied through Toby Holmes.

Mudford Men's club remain three points clear in DIVISION ONE after Mike Kitson and Toby Sherriff gave them the edge 2-1 at Sturminster Marshall.

Dan Baguley notched a hat-trick when nearest rivals Bournemouth Electric Reserves over-powered Twynham Rangers 6-3 with Bradley Aspin (2) and Matt Justice also on target. Luke Gogan and Luke Walker struck for Bisterne Rangers but their hopes of taking over on top of DIVISION THREE were dashed when Redlynch & Woodfalls United Reserves shaded it 3-2

with goals from Tom Harman, Darren Abbreu and Nick Scott.

AFC Burton were also 3-2 winners when Dave Horgan, Mark Brading, and Tom Easom subdued FC Athletico while Parley Sports A gave Redhill Rangers a 7-2 drubbing with goals from Dan Hiscock (2), Alex Jackson (2), Adam Stanley, Alan O'Grady and Andy Green.

Charlie Field's strike was not quite enough to save DIVISION FOUR leaders AFC Brangore from a 2-1 defeat against AFC Pennington.

Dom Taylor struck twice in New Milton Eagles' 5-1 victory over Ferndown Sports Reserves with Jon Spooner, Ollie Luchoomun and Richie Parsons adding one each while Burley hammered Milford 8-0 thanks to Wayne Tucker (2), Rob Stevenson, Dan Billing, Darren Mew and a Nick Russen hat-trick.

Screw-It Carpentry take over on top of DIVISION FIVE after nailing Witchampton Reserves 6-2 courtesy of Robert Cole, Dean Hindle, Tom Bradford and a Tim Somerfield hat-trick.

At the opposite end of the table, Brangore United move off the bottom after surprising FC Barcelona 4-2 with goals from Blake Vincent (2), Ryan Maxfield and Sean Barton.

Luke Scrimshaw and Aaron Woldon plundered five and four goals respectively when Bournemouth Manor A crushed depleted Albany Athletic 15-0 with Luke McArdle (2), John Bastle, Lee Johnson, Tom Vincent and Shane Gough completing the rout.

A & T Athletic remain two points clear at the top of DIVISION SIX after Daniel Wills, Anthony Winders and Liam Holland ensured a 3-1 success against AFC Burton Reserves.

Shaun Steer was the four-goal star when nearest rivals Ferndown Town Greenfields Reserves swept Brangore United Reserves aside 5-2 with the other goal coming from Fareed Raouf.

# The Old one-two by Christchurch

### HAYWARD SUNDAY LEAGUE

**PETE Old and James Wright were on target for East Christchurch SSC in the opening ten minutes against West Moors SSC.**

And Old scored his second of the game midway through the second half to complete a 3-0 victory which takes East Christchurch up to second place in the PREMIER LEAGUE.

Chris Forbes was the star of the show for Christchurch Royals when he scored all four goals to give them the upper hand 4-2 against arch rivals Priory Quays.

Liam Currell was the four-goal hero when Springers larruped Parley Sports 9-2 to take over on top of DIVISION ONE.

Rico Wilson (2), Jamie Beale, Suwanchiai Thompson and Jacob Harrop were the other Springers marksmen while John Shaw and Dave Weeden gave Bournemouth Electric the edge 2-1 against Bournemouth Athletic.

Bournemouth Athletic led 3-1 through Shaun Brazier (2) and Andy Wright but Harry's Bar came back with goals from Paul Best (2) and Davie Hamilton to force a 3-3 draw. And Tavla Spor opened their points account when they held Kavell to a 0-0 draw.

Lovitt continue to rule the roost in DIVISION TWO, sweeping nearest rivals Redhill aside 4-1 thanks to Terry Larcombe, Paul Blenman, Stuart McKillop and an own goal and Creekmoor Lions take over in second place after Wayne Nash scored all four goals in their 4-1 victory over AC FC.

Stuart Marshall and Adrian Pavey scored two each in Vienna Windows' 4-2 success against AFC Burton while Lotus Press were 3-0 winners against Magdon Scaffolding thanks to Tom Mann, Pete Gardner and an own goal.

**DIVISION THREE** pacesetters Queens Park Rovers Reserves just got the better of Poole Wanderers 2-1 with goals from Ben Sullivan and Steve Miles and KC Transport move into second place after Adam Watson (2), Gary Williams (2) and Marc Harrison ensured a 5-0 triumph over Three Cross.

Stuart Davis and Shaun Steer both rattled in four when Verwood SSC trounced Boscombe Celtic 10-2 with Marc Crisp and Liam Morrison adding one each.

Shoulder of Mutton Reserves continue to lead DIVISION FOUR on goal difference after crushing depleted tailenders Witchampton



**ANYONE'S BALL:** Corfe Mullen (red) take on Victoria Cross.

27-0. Terry Foote plundered eight and there were hat-tricks from Darren Millar, Marc Scrimshaw and Nick Doe. Matt Biddle (2), Leighton Clarke (2), Dan Parker (2), Tom Donaghue, John Hooper, Dean Lumber, and Paul Merrifield were the other SoM marksmen.

Specialist Lettings are hot on their heels after brushing Carling Sports aside 6-2 courtesy of Lee Diaper's four-goal blast and further goals from Lee Pearson and George Knijff while, at the other end of the table, Harbourside eased their relegation worries with an impressive 4-1 victory over Bournemouth Sports with goals from Tom Miller (2), Chris Hayward and Nick Collins.

Sean Leadbetter and Rob Stephenson both notched hat-tricks as AFC Ringwood held top spot in DIVISION FIVE on goal difference by trouncing Broadstone Con 10-1 with Craig Frost (2), Sean Thomas, and Ben Tucker completing the rout.

Ali Garard scored all four goals when AFC Stourvale kept their promotion hopes alive with a 4-0 victory over Magpies while Mike Kitson tucked away four in Victoria Park Royals' 6-1 triumph over Grove Tavern with Kieron Goldrick and Matthew Davitt adding one each.

Martyn MacKinley struck for Ace but the DIVISION SIX pacesetters took a tumble when A & T



Athletic surprised them 3-1 courtesy of a Dale Walters hat-trick.

Kavell Reserves just got the better of Wessex Wanderers 3-2 thanks to Jon Massey (2) and Paul Rideout while Poole Bay Estates battered AFC Burton Reserves 8-1 through Craig Smith (2), Russell Chivers, Matt Morris, Terry Bridgewater and a Karl Chalkley hat-trick.

White Heather Hornets are two points clear at the top of DIVISION SEVEN after Charles Stratton settled the issue 1-0 against Vienna Windows Reserves.

Adam Janes, Ashley Fudge and Ricky Powell struck for nearest rivals Newtown Rovers but they had to settle for a point when James Bainton, Carl Fleet and Jes Pathak earned Ensbury Park Rangers a 3-3 draw.

Dan Adlem (2), Kevin Joyce and Chris Roberts gave DIVISION EIGHT high flyers Cranborne the upper hand 4-2 against Kinross Con and they are neck and neck with Bournemouth Borough at the summit after Borough upended Ferndown Forest 5-2 with a Daniel Bailey hat-trick and further goals by Ross Ayley and Ben Cooper.

Scott Mitchell's brace was not enough to save DIVISION NINE front runners Scott V from an unexpected 5-2 defeat against Rockbourne Reserves whose goals came via Leigh Elliott, Josh Pugh and a James Wood hat-trick.

Throop United replace Kings Park Dynamos in the runners-up spot after upending them 5-3 with goals from Adam Louka (2), Mitch Barnes, James Flanagan, and James Morris but the main threat is likely to come from Alderholt who ambushed West Howe 5-1 thanks to Jason Smith (2), Tom Cranmer, Alistair Bailey and Matt Bailey.



**MORE SUNDAY LEAGUE FOOTBALL - SEE PAGE 34**

# Non-league Football

DREW SMITH GROUP SOUTHAMPTON FOOTBALL LEAGUE						
Including Saturday Jan 7 SENIOR PREMIER						
P	W	D	L	F	A	PTS
Bush Hill	11	10	0	1	35	13 30
Soton Uni	11	8	0	3	27	12 24
Forest Town	11	7	1	3	34	17 22
Nursling	11	7	1	3	25	18 22
Cutbush Athletic	10	4	2	4	20	28 14
Comrades	8	4	0	4	18	21 12
London Airways	11	4	0	7	15	25 12
AFC Hiltingbury	11	3	2	6	23	35 11
Bish-stoke WMC	11	3	0	8	22	27 9
BTC Soton	13	1	0	12	13	59 3
SENIOR 1						
Netley CS Res	11	10	1	0	46	5 31
Cadnam United	11	8	2	1	42	15 26
Thornhill HK	9	7	1	1	46	19 22
White Horse NM	12	7	1	4	48	24 22
Hythe Aztecs	12	7	1	4	48	32 22
Lyndhurst	9	4	1	4	27	19 13
Hedge End Tn	11	4	0	7	29	42 12
Comrades Res	12	3	1	8	27	47 10
Durley Res	11	3	1	7	25	57 10
Burridge AFC	8	2	3	3	25	22 9
BTC Soton Res	9	2	0	7	10	45 6
Mich&T Res	13	1	0	12	13	59 3
JUNIOR 1						
South City Utd	11	7	2	2	25	15 23
East Boldre	10	5	2	3	27	20 17
AFC Grans	10	4	4	2	23	14 16
Wombles	8	4	4	0	19	11 16
Veracity Vipers	9	4	2	3	26	18 14
Park Sports	8	4	2	2	24	18 14
Compton	8	3	2	3	27	20 11
Braishfield	10	2	2	6	16	22 8
Simpson Energy	7	1	1	2	21	22 7
Otterbourne A	11	0	0	11	7	55 0
JUNIOR 2						
OK Soton A	11	8	1	2	33	11 25
Langley Manor	9	5	2	2	32	10 17
H End Rng Res	8	5	2	1	13	5 17
Chamberlayne	12	5	1	5	26	26 17
Humble United	8	3	2	3	16	17 11
Solent Saints	9	3	2	4	20	22 11
Inmar	7	2	1	4	15	24 7
Questmap	8	1	2	5	17	25 4
Wellow	8	1	0	7	11	46 3
JUNIOR 3						
Compton Res	12	8	3	1	40	16 27
Forest Town Ps	10	5	5	0	30	14 20
Ch Ford Rang	10	6	1	3	41	26 19
Warsash Wasps	12	5	4	3	32	25 19
FC Wellington	9	5	1	3	27	16 16
Capital	11	4	1	6	24	37 13
Infinity Res	9	3	3	3	19	29 12
AFC Gordons	12	4	0	8	23	38 12
Riverside	6	3	1	2	21	8 10
Bricklayers AFC	12	3	0	9	15	41 9
Cricketers Eleigh	11	1	1	9	13	35 4
JUNIOR 4						
West Totton	11	10	1	0	48	19 30
Harfield	12	9	2	1	54	13 29
Chandlers Ford	9	5	2	2	27	17 17
AFC Gulf West	6	5	1	0	24	10 16
Priory Rovers	11	4	1	6	25	27 13
Bolley Vill Res	9	4	1	4	27	32 13
G Companions	12	3	2	7	27	30 11
New Forest	11	2	2	7	17	42 8
Brig Gerard	13	2	1	10	17	53 7
Cricketers F Oal	10	1	0	8	17	40 6
JUNIOR 5						
Horton Heath	13	8	2	3	43	28 26
Bitterne Pk Hot	10	8	1	1	39	13 25
Bolley Village A	13	8	1	4	47	29 25
Stanton FC	10	7	0	3	45	26 21
Freemantle AFC	12	5	4	3	32	27 19
Upham Res	11	6	0	5	41	24 18
Hamble Utd Res	14	3	5	6	24	14 14
Atlet Romsey	15	3	3	9	25	46 12
Riverside Res	10	1	3	6	14	36 6
Lon Airways Rs	12	1	1	10	11	46 4
JUNIOR 6						
New Forest Res	12	10	1	1	55	19 31
S G Sports	13	10	1	2	57	23 31
Coxford Jets	13	8	1	4	42	35 25
Burridge Village	12	7	2	3	44	21 23
Amphill Athlete	12	6	2	4	43	29 20
Braishfield Res	14	5	2	7	42	47 17
Sporting Wessex	10	5	1	4	24	17 16
AFC Station	10	4	2	4	22	24 14
Mechanics	10	2	1	7	23	37 7
AFC Soton	13	2	1	10	22	47 7
Mich & T A	13	0	1	13	11	86 0
VETERANS A						
Questmap Vets	9	9	0	0	39	8 27
Nursling Vets	8	6	1	1	28	10 19
Sporting BTC A	8	6	1	1	24	7 19
Sholing A	11	6	1	4	29	14 19
G E Aviation A	8	4	1	3	25	17 13
OK Southampton	9	3	0	6	19	20 19
Redlynch & W U	10	3	0	7	18	38 9
Golden Common	6	2	0	4	13	12 6
BTC Soton Vets	12	10	2	7	14	36 6
VETERANS B						
Bish Walthyn D	126	4	2	41	23	22
RS Winchester	10	1	2	27	16	22
Locks Heath	10	6	1	3	25	11 19
Hythe Aztecs	9	6	1	2	23	18 19
Langley Manor A	9	5	1	3	24	18 16
H End Rangers	8	4	3	1	24	21 16
Langley Tavern A	8	4	3	1	24	21 15
Northend United	12	2	4	6	22	34 10
AFC Stoneham	10	3	1	6	22	36 10
Compton Tens	10	1	5	4	25	38 8
Wildern O B	10	0	6	4	20	28 6
Albion Sports	13	12	10	11	33	5 6
VETERANS C						
Sporting B TC	14	12	0	2	47	11 36
Sholing B	13	9	2	2	38	16 29
GE Aviation B	11	9	0	2	30	12 27
Baddesley Park	13	8	1	4	40	24 25
Redbridge O B	12	5	1	6	37	41 16
Royal Mail	12	5	1	6	21	25 16
Mich & T A	10	5	0	5	27	29 15
Winchester O B	12	3	1	9	16	44 7
Langley Man B	14	1	4	2	22	44 7
Priory Rover	12	2	1	9	16	44 7
Langley Tab V	11	1	3	7	23	46 6
VETERANS D						
Queens Vets	14	12	0	2	47	11 36
Nursling Vets	13	9	2	2	38	16 29
GE Aviation C	11	9	0	2	30	12 27
Baddesley Park	13	8	1	4	40	24 25
Redbridge O B	12	5	1	6	37	41 16
Royal Mail	12	5	1	6	21	25 16
Mich & T A	10	5	0	5	27	29 15
Winchester O B	12	3	1	9	16	44 7
Langley Man B	14	1	4	2	22	44 7
Priory Rover	12	2	1	9	16	44 7
Langley Tab V	11	1	3	7	23	46 6

## Only one survivor in Hampshire K.O. for four in the cup



CLOSE CALL: Dan Phillips's free kick flew just over the bar as

### DREW SMITH GROUP SOUTHAMPTON FOOTBALL LEAGUE

CLOSE CALL: Dan Phillips's free kick flew just over the bar as

Riverside narrowly fell to Bournemouth Electric in the Hampshire

other teams in striking distance, including Hiltingbury.

Current cellar dwellers BTC put up a good show against top-of-the-table Bush Hill but lost 3-1, Paul Boucher scoring twice.

London Airways lost 2-0 at home to Nursling thanks to Nathan Bailey and Aiden Johnson.

In Senior 1 Cadnam United crushed Thornhill HK 9-1 in a hastily re-arranged match including a hat-trick of braces from Paul Burnett, Phil Walsh and Tom Glasspool.

Netley CS kept on track with a hard-fought 3-1 victory over Hedge End Town, Grant Patterson scoring twice.

Hythe Aztecs' fine season continued with a 5-3 victory over Burridge with Steve Marwood hitting a hat-trick.

White Horse conceded two penalties in a 4-3 defeat by Lyndhurst, for whom Wade

Comrades emerged winners in the Cutbush derby with Jamie Wilson struck twice.

In Senior 2 Compton were taken all the way by B division Hedge

End Rangers, Elliott Costick

scoring for Common with Kev

Alden for Rangers. Common

took the penalty shoot-out 7-6.

Sporting BTC trailed QK

Southampton through Tony

Stacey but three late goals

from Ben Goodridge (2) and

Paul Williams turned the tie on its head.

In the SDFA Cup quarter-

finals, Nursling were held to a

goalless draw by B Division

leaders Rising Sun Winchester

but took the tie 4-2 on penali-

ties.

In League action, Questmap

made it a magnificent nine

wins from nine with a 4-2 win

again Sholing, one of the chas-

ing pack. Tim Rodham, Rich

Gorman, Dave Harfield and

Wayne West were on target.

Biggest win of the day saw

GE Aviation hammer BTC 10-3

with Des Edwards hitting a hat-

trick and Court Swan and Tony

Butler netting braces.

Redlynch took the honours in

the battle of the bottom pair to

jump two places with a 5-1

defeat of Old Tauntonians,

Carlo Downie leading the way

with four goals.

Thank heavens for Evans! The

thrilling race for the B Division

title took yet another swing

# Non-league Football



## Jess the right way to start

**MEON VALLEY LEAGUE**

**SOBERTON** United made the perfect start to 2012 in Division 1, with a 9-2 thrashing of Waterlooville Social Club.

Alan Jess (4) and Olibi Omuswason (3) led the spree with Stewart Thompson and Adam Mutch also scoring to cancel out Jamie Proctor's double.

In the second tier, Horndean XI beat Wickham Dynamos 3-1, Dan Perry replying.

Alresford Athletic defeated Milton Rovers Reserves 3-2 thanks to Matthew Lickman (2) and Richard Waldren.

Travaux announced their credentials as title contenders with a 7-0 thumping of Shelford Rovers. Ryan Jennings struck five of the goals with Dean Inman and Evan Waters also netting.

SDC outlined their promotion intentions with a 3-1 win over Waterlooville Rovers with Pete Jodrell, Matt Pople and Tuelo Mokgethi scoring.

David Newcombe's double helped Southwick Lions to a 2-1 victory over FC Medina. Cowplain drew 2-2 at Hedgeside, with Chris Scobie and David Snook scoring for the visitors.

In Division 4, Horndean United came from a behind to beat struggling Purbrook 3-1. Liam Cobb had given the basement side the lead when he glanced a free-kick into the bottom corner, but strikes from Dan Carter, Stewart Johnsen and Andy Mathewson turned the game on its head.

AFC Swood started the new year as they finished the last, with a 4-1 triumph over Mead End thanks to goals from Dan Lucas (2), Danny Gregory and Phil Bernten.

Horndean XI Reserves defeated Waterlooville Social Club 2-1, Daniel Edwards replying.

Milton Rovers progressed in the Hampshire Cup, beating Stag Athletic 4-2 with Lewie Madden, Calum Gray, Tyler Moret and Ben Daniels on target.

Crofton Saints defeated South Hants Glass 3-2 through Scott Williams (2) and Jamie Chalmers.

Titchfield were thrashed 6-1 by Northwood Athletic, Michael Saunders replying.

## Knighton march on to final

### HAMPSHIRE CUPS

**KNIGHTON** Arms booked a place in the Hampshire FA Senior Cup final as they beat Co-op Dragons 3-2.

It was 1-1 at half time but two goals by ex-Reading pro Pete Castle settled it and Knighton now face Queens Park in the final on February 18.

Foresters Arms reached the county Intermediate Cup

semi-finals when they beat Horns Inn 5-4 on penalties after a 1-1 draw.

Lance Dunham added to Matt Headington's first-half strike to earn Winston Hotel a 2-0 win against FC Weekes in the Hampshire Junior A Cup fourth round.

Farlington Academicals defeated Hedge End 4-3 on penalties in the same tournament.

Paul Behan, Steve Galton and Darren Wallace scored in the shoot-out for the losers.

Chartwell Green progressed to the fourth round of the Junior B Cup with a 4-1 win against Rushmoor

Community, scoring three times in the second period.

Gary Keele struck twice with Peter Rosher and Michael Thorn also on target.

Yateley Green pulled off a 2-1 win after extra time against Bridge AFC in the Junior B Cup, Danny Longman replying. Green Dragon thumped

Sporting Compass 5-0 in the Junior C Cup.

Goals from Horan Baker, Rich Edwards and James Mellor failed to prevent Halfway United losing 4-3 to Daedalus.

King George also lost out, beaten 4-3 by Gosport Falcons, despite goals from Dave North, Matt Rodaway and Nathan Rose.

# Ice skate it thanks to two goal heroes



**SCORING ACE:** Matt Longland, right, scored four goals as Ice House won 9-1 in Junior Division 2 of the Southampton Sunday League.

## Six-goal Nelson top

### SOUTHAMPTON SUNDAY LEAGUE

**LORD NELSON** maintained their three-point lead at the top of the Southampton Sunday League's top division with a 6-0 thrashing of struggling Otter.

Ben Murphy scored a hat-trick with Dan Fry, Matt Hardiman and Matt Ley also on target.

Hamble defeated third placed AFC Allbrook 5-3 away to stay second. Billy Kelly (2), Wayne Brine, Nicky Brown and Tim Rodman all scored in the first half for Hamble.

Allbrook replied through James Hobbs, Craig Marshall and Dave Reading.

In Division 2, Trants were thrashed 10-1 by rampant leaders CS FC. Richard Adames and Shane Simms both netted twice with Gary Dare, Dave Phillipott, Martyn Randall, Mike Randall, Rick Spencer and Kyle

Williams also on target. West End beat Landguard Rovers 4-3 thanks to Ricky Everton (2), Nathan Gibson and Toby Withy. Andy Herod, Tom Mann and Andy Neocleous replied.

AFC Anchor moved into fourth place in Division 3 with a 4-1 win over second-to-bottom Holybury United, strikes coming from Lee Dear, Dan Reilly, John Richardson and an own goal. Malc Davie Jnr replied.

**ICE HOUSE** thrashed Carnival UK 9-1 in Junior Division 2 of the City of Southampton Sunday League – with only two players on target!

Ashley Baddams (5) and Matt Longland (4) shared the goals, six of which came in the second period. Gary Crook replied.

Itchen Manor defeated FC Railway 4-2 thanks to goals from Richard Cummins (2), Ewen Thompson and Adam Laver. Dan Hancock and Matt Journeaux hit back.

Sports Mania were beaten 3-1 by visitors FC Salt, James Gray replying.

Sean Haines scored twice as Brookhill Saints Reserves beat Old House at Home 4-2. Sam Smith and James Lavender also netted with Jon Cook and Matt Pile replying.

Lewis Wyeth and Mick Mandair were on target for KRL in their 2-1 victory over Bursledon Towers in the Senior Division. Ross Hickman replied.

Castle Inn came from behind to draw 2-2 with Anchor Redbridge in Junior Division 1. Redbridge were leading thanks to Tom Ashely Baddams, Howells and Greg Nolan but Tony Sullivan and Martin Stuart hit back.

Riverside Magic won 2-0 at home against Linden Tree with Gary Gots and Luke Potchecarey netting. Athletico HD caned Woodman 5-1 with goals from Craig Moorey (2), Jack Vass, Ollie Davidson and Alex Arnold.

In Junior Division 3, Cherbourg thrashed AFC Bishopstoke 10-0 with Matt Henriet leading the spree with a hat-trick.

Jack Cole, Danny Mead (2), Ben Johnson, Martin Drabik, Martin Field and Sam Carter also netted. Kev Maloney and Ben Boyce both netted twice in Junior



**FIVE GOALS:**

### CITY OF SOUTHAMPTON SUNDAY LEAGUE

Division 4 as Southampton Boys won 6-0 at Itchen Manor Reserves. Terry Fredericks and Aaron Looker also netted.

Marc Beston's triple gave Bishops Blaize a 3-3 draw at Newton Athletic, who netted through Pawel Burdzy, Edward Bassey and Grey Fairbairn.

Will Stewart scored twice as Eastpoint won 4-2 at Obelisk, Chris Hall and Aaron Connolly also netting. Dan Smith replied twice.

Woodmill thrashed Burridge AFC 6-1 with Steve Allen (2), Jody Hoar, James Fry, Steve Garrett and Tom Weller on target.

In Junior Division Five AFC Bishopstoke were beaten 4-3 by AV Chivas. Jon Andrews (2), Ben Guy and Mike Woods found the net for Chivas with Harpreet Singh, Matt Dodds and Lee Chamberlain replying.

Owen Williams's strike gave Durley victory at H.S.C Southern Stars.

Chris Eastman netted twice in Junior Division 6 as AFC Southampton defeated visiting Ampfield 5-1. Darran Smith, Darren Bunday and Daniel Whitnall also scored with Darren Hamshare replying.

Hyte and Dibden Sunday were level at 2-2 at half-time at home to Unity, but ended up winning 6-2 thanks to Dan Sultana (2), Paul Wilkinson (2), Neil Darby and Dan Piernicki.

Toby Wilkes replied as Sporting Compass Reserves lost 2-1 at Marchwood.

RS Ocean Village defeated Test Valley Spartans 4-0 thanks to Ben Dawkins, John Logman, Akbar Shah and Ero Mannikko.

# Youth Football

# DOLPHINS HAVE WALES OF A TIME

■ By Mike Vimpany

[echosport@dailyecho.co.uk](mailto:echosport@dailyecho.co.uk)

**POOLE & East Dorset** are through to the last 16 of the English Schools FA Under-15 Trophy after a thrilling 5-4 extra time win over Newport in South Wales.

Their prize is another long trip, this time to West Cornwall – a tie the young Dolphins will fancy winning, especially with the prospect of a home quarter-final looming in round six.

Poole's win on foreign soil was highly creditable. Newport, like Poole, were unbeaten in all competitions and included three Welsh Under-16 internationals in their line up.

Poole, who reached the ESFA Under-15 final several years ago when Saints prospect Ben Reeves was in their ranks, twice came from behind to win.

Poole's midfield asserted early authority – a neat move on the left hand side saw Jack Dickson and Billy Lowes combine to make a delightful crossfield ball between the Newport centre half and full back into the path of Alex Martin, who gave the visitors the lead.

But by half-time, Poole were 2-1 down – Newport having equalised midway through the first half and taken the lead two minutes before the break.

The early stages of the second half saw Poole take the game to Newport with some fast flowing football at an incredible pace.

Dan Munday's unselfish work led to Poole's second goal ten minutes after the interval.

He was upended as he drove through the Newport defence and Morgan Turner converted the free kick from 20 yards into the top corner to make it 2-2.

Poole were creating the better chances in the final third of the pitch, but 15 minutes from time Newport took a 3-2 lead in a goal-mouth scramble.

Poole responded immediately and four minutes from time sent the tie into extra-time with Jon Nichols converting Dickson's corner at the far post.

An outstanding second goal of the game by Alex Martin nudged Poole & East Dorset 4-3 ahead early in extra-time.

Martin picked up the ball on the halfway line and skipped past three defenders before hitting a fierce shot beyond the Newport keeper at his near post.

Poole dominated subsequent possession and extended their lead to 5-3 through Zac Barnes, who arrived from midfield to apply a left foot finish across the keeper and into the bottom corner of the net.

The drama didn't end there as Newport set up a tense finale by pulling a goal back in the dying minutes – but Poole held on to win the day.

"The match was a fantastic advert for schools' football," beamed Poole & East Dorset team manager Steve Llewelyn.

"The game was a fast flowing and played in the right spirit by two very good teams."



**ON THE CHARGE:** Bitterne Park's Max Evans, second right, bursts through on the St Brinius goal.  
Daily Echo pictures by Chris Moorhouse Order no: 13732724

## Kiss of life

BITTERNE Park are through to the last 16 of the English Schools' FA Under-15 Cup for the second time in three seasons after pulling off a dramatic penalty shoot-out win over St Brinius, from Oxfordshire, at Wide Lane.

They won 4-2 on penalties after being held 2-2 after extra-time.

Jack Smith, Brad Collins, Owen Roundell-Prince and Adam May scored from the spot, while goalkeeper Josh Kissane saved two penalty kicks.

Bitterne Park took the lead in the tenth minute of a physical encounter – Max Evans scoring with a half-volley from a corner.

He went close again two minutes later.

St Brinius equalised on the half-hour, but Bitterne Park restored the lead five minutes before half-time with a long range Brad Collins free kick.

"We ought to have settled it after that, but wasted three good chances to put the tie to bed," lamented coach Alan Gordon.

St Brinius upped their game in the second half, but despite their greater possession failed to create any clear cut chances.

But 14 minutes from time, the Didcot visitors drew level at 2-2 and sent the tie into an unproductive period of extra-time.

Bitterne Park came into their own during a nerve racking penalty shoot-out.

Boosted by Kissane's two saves, Jack Smith, Brad Collins, Owen Roundell-Prince and Adam May all hit the mark to send Bitterne Park into round seven of the national competition.



**HIGH-FLIER:** Brad Collins, left, in action for Bitterne Park School against St Brinius.  
Order no: 13733065

"Although it was a very tight affair I feel that we did enough over the course of the game to deserve the victory, particularly in the second half and in extra time when at times the football we played was outstanding."

I felt that we had too much pace and strength in the final third of the pitch and we were always going to create chances.

"All of the lads did the jobs they were asked to do and collectively we worked hard and the boys reaped

the benefits of an exceptional team performance."

West Cornwall lined up their home tie with Poole & East Dorset without kicking a ball in anger – scheduled fourth round opponents Swansea being disqualified.

## Taunton's title hopes take a hit

TAUNTON'S prospects of threatening Itchen's domination of Hampshire Sixth Form Colleges soccer were dashed by a 3-1 defeat by unpredictable Farnborough.

Boro' captain Matt Thomas scored with a header after 25 minutes and Taunton's equalised just before half-time. Thomas restored Boro's lead with a second header on the hour and Ryan George got the third direct from a free kick ten minutes from the end.

"Generally speaking, a very even game between two good sides," reflected Farnborough coach Alan Reed.

Itchen, meanwhile, trimmed Havant 2-0 at Middle Road.

A hat-trick by Cavell Poleon and a single strike from Ben Brown gave Sparsholt an easy 4-0 win over Portsmouth.

Exam-hit Barton Peveril pulled off a 2-1 win at Bournemouth, where Tom Ashton and Scott Chester scored the key goals.

Alex Dale and Felix Laing hit-hats as Peter Symonds blasted South Downs 8-2.

Mason Brown and Ollie Dobson completed the rout.

Wednesday's fixtures: Barton Peveril v Peter Symonds, Basingstoke v South Downs, Brockenhurst v Portsmouth, Sparsholt v Alton, Havant v Farnborough, Toton v Bournemouth.

## Symonds caught late

PETER Symonds are out of the ESFA Under-18 Colleges Trophy after a thrilling 4-3 defeat by Brighton City in the last 16 of the national competition.

Brighton fluffed a first half penalty but still managed to pull two goals ahead.

Felix Laing pulled one back before half-time and then bundled home an equalising penalty at the second attempt.

Brighton restored their lead but were pegged back again as little Mason Brown coolly curled in a shot around the goalkeeper.

Brighton grabbed a late winner before PSC were controversially denied a last-gasp equaliser.

## Harry and Henry star

HARRY Cornick and Henry Southwick hit-hats as Poole Grammar routed Queen Elizabeth School, Wimborne 9-2 to reach the Dorset Schools Cup semi-finals.

Tony Adams, Ben Mogg and Cyril Knowles completed the scoring for PGS.

Neighbours Poole High School go to Dorchester on Wednesday week, January 25, to play their quarter-final tie against Thomas Hardye.

Poole High have won all nine domestic games this season, their only defeat so far having come against Haberdashers Askes Knights Academy in the ESFA Under-18 Trophy.

# Youth Football

## TYRO LEAGUE

### Rovers ease drop fears

Colden Common Rovers U14 2  
Pace Cougars U14 0

**COLDEN** Common under-14s made a great start to the new year with a 2-0 victory over Tyro League Division rivals Pace Cougars that gave their relegation fight fresh impetus.

Andy Slowgove and Tom Stonehouse in the Common defence repelled Pace's early forward forays.

With fifteen minutes on the clock, a long goal kick from Common's Jimmy Thompson found Jack Hammond, who beat his marker to break clear of the Pace defence before slotting the ball past the advancing keeper for 1-0.

Despite further chances, there was no addition to the score before half-time.

After the break there was more space in midfield as the heavy legs started to show. Substitutions now played a part and both keepers were called upon to provide early saves, Jimmy Thompson, the Colden Common keeper, providing some great cover for his back four.

As the game progressed the midfield battles intensified with some notable performances from Common's Joe Fysh and Alex Bere.

Just as the nerves were starting to show, man-of-the-match Josh Hyde in the centre of the Colden Common midfield picked up the ball just outside the Pace penalty area and, after shaking off two challenges, found space to place a super strike into the corner of the net to secure victory with five minutes remaining.

### King James

Wellow U12 2

Granley Stoneham U12 1

Wellow made a solid start to 2012 by claiming a narrow win in their first home fixture of the new year.

Liam Eyre went close for Wellow early on, but it was the visitors who took the lead on ten minutes through a sweetly struck long-range effort.

Wellow fought back but, despite Daniel Newman and Sam Hilton both hitting the bar, they were unable to get a goal back before the break.

The second half saw Wellow continue to pile on the pressure and they were rewarded when James Skeates lobbed the keeper after being played in by Hilton.

Skeates got the winner soon after, when he latched on to Newman's flick and provided a neat finish to get Wellow the victory they deserved.

## Eastleigh & District Mini League under-nine Jim Pearson Cup picture special



Order no: 13720899

Order no: 13720810



Order no: 13720831



Daily Echo pictures by  
**PAUL COLLINS**

**ANTICLOCKWISE** (from above): A Pace Pumas under-nines (in yellow) player beats the Alresford keeper to score the first goal of the Jim Pearson Cup clash at Fleming Park despite a brave attempt from an Alresford defender to hook the ball off the line.  
Order nos (from above): 13720906, 13720912, 13720922, 13720926 and 13720931

**EMAIL YOUR TEAM SHOTS TO [echosport@dailyecho.co.uk](mailto:echosport@dailyecho.co.uk)**

# Youth Football

## Eastleigh & District Mini League under-nine Jim Pearson Cup picture special



### TYRO LEAGUE

## Panthers on the prowl

Michelmersh & Timsbury U11 0  
Romsey Town Panthers U11 3  
**PANTHERS** beat rivals M & T 3-0 away from home.

Rocky Browne went close for the Panthers early on and Romsey continued to create numerous chances in the first half before they took the lead through Nick Riley.

M&T rarely troubled the Panthers keeper and Ben Nelson and Jamie Kater were strong at the back.

The second half saw Panthers continue to pile on the pressure and they were rewarded when Riley's free kick found its way into the net to extend their lead.

A third goal came soon after, Joe Vaughan making a run from his own half and placing his shot in the bottom corner to give the Panthers the victory they deserved.

## Town edged

Romsey Town U14 3  
Southside AFC U14 4

Romsey Town were edged out by Southside Side AFC in a top of the table clash.

Southside took the lead early on, but it was Romsey who responded straight from the restart and got an equaliser through Jordan Carpenter's close range shot.

Romsey took the lead before the break as Lane Jones took advantage of a mix-up in the Southside defence to tap home from close range.

The second half saw Southside pile on the pressure and they re-established their lead with two quick goals.

Lane Jones got his second for Romsey to draw level but, in the dying moments, Southside got the winner.

## Levi double

Romsey Town Panthers U12 6  
Romsey Town Cougars U12 2

**Romsey Town Panthers** put in a breathtaking display to beat rivals Romsey Town Cougars.

Cougars went close early on, but it was the home side who took the lead after four minutes through a neat individual finish by Levi Greenough.

Cougars responded quickly and equalised on ten minutes through James Sly.

Panthers took the lead on the stroke of half-time as Greenough headed his second.

The second half saw Cougars pile on the pressure early on, forcing Jack Harvie into a decent save.

However, from then on in it was all Panthers as goals from Hayden Barnes (2), Louis Andrews and Mitchell Wheeler completed the demolition.

**YOUTH FOOTBALL RESULTS APPEAR IN MONDAY'S DAILY ECHO**

# Youth Football

**SOTON YOUTH LGE**  
**Littleboy is**  
**leading man**  
**in Burridge's**  
**five-star show**

FIVE seemed to be the magic number in Division 1 of the under-18 section, New Forest United beating Eastbrook Harriers 5-1 and Burridge winning 5-3 at Baddeley Park, writes ALAN JOHNS.

Alie Staples was quick to impress for Burridge, putting his team ahead after only 40 seconds.

Glenn Littleboy made it 2-0 on 12 minutes and Callum Foote's header made it 3-0 to the visitors.

Baddeley pulled a goal back before Littleboy broke through to score his second on 43 minutes for 4-1.

Early in the second half Burridge had numerous chances, but could not finish them and Baddeley scored their second on 50 minutes.

Both teams battled hard, but Burridge were always on top and man-of-the-match Littleboy met a lovely floated cross to head home on 65 minutes to complete his hat-trick and make it 5-2.

Baddeley kept fighting and refused to give in and their efforts were rewarded on 90 minutes to make the final score 5-3 to Burridge.

Division 3 produced even more goal-mouth action.

The Alresford derby saw the U18CSYL side well and truly claim the bragging rights with a 9-0 victory over their club-mates.

Pirelli Pirates entertained Romsey Town and saw their visitors return home with all three points courtesy of a 9-1 scoreline.

AFC Stoneham visited Michelmersh & Timsbury Athletic and won 5-0.

Division 4 goalkeepers were also kept busy, with Michelmersh & Timsbury Colts winning 5-3 at AFC Hiltingbury and Hythe & Dibden 4-2 victors at home to St Francis Rangers.

In the third round of the Hampshire Cup, Salisbury City showed no signs of festive over-indulgence in defeating Ringwood Town 3-2.

In under-16 action, Winchester City Reds' 6-0 win at home to Cherbourg caught the eye in Division 1, but the other games were all fairly close by comparison.

Easleigh drew 0-0 at Hythe & Dibden, while title challengers AFC Totton enjoyed 2-0 home rule over St Francis Rovers.

Salisbury City drew 2-2 with Winchester City White, while the Sholing derby saw 'The Whites' just get the better of 'The Reds' to win 3-2.

QK Southampton were on the receiving end of a hammering at the hands of Totton & Eling, losing 16-0, no doubt unable to field a strong side after the holidays.

The two BTC (Southampton) sides both had successful outings, Stoneham winning 4-0 at home to Warsash Wasps and Athletic single-goal victors on their visit to Bitterne.

Derby-day at Colden Common saw Rangers beat Colts 2-1.

Salisbury Sparks were the only side not to hit the net in Division 3, losing 4-0 at home to BTC (Soton) Spartans, the goals coming from Craig Johnson and a hat-trick from Callum Williams. Blackfield & Langley just had the better of Townhill Lingland Panthers in a nine-goal thriller, while AFC Stoneham took maximum points off visitors Wyvern, winning 4-1.

## Cleo hits **SEVEN** goals on return to under-16 action



**WIN DOUBLE:** Southampton Saints Girls & Ladies FC under-14 and under-16 teams, pictured with team manager Peter Horne, both won last weekend.

# Saints' Raw power

**CLEO Rawlings made an incredible return to action after a three-month absence for Southampton Saints G&L FC's under-16s, hitting seven goals in the 10-0 Stein Cup semi-final victory over Winchester City Flyers.**

Rawlings, pictured right, was quickly back into the scoring groove, netting her team's first five goals before Grace Henderson got in on the act to make it 6-0 to the Saints at half-time.

There was no respite for Flyers in the second half, Saints adding four more goals to their tally through Falconer, Georgina Axton and the irrepressible



### GIRLS AND LADIES' FOOTBALL

Rawlings who took her personal tally to seven.

- Saints Ladies lost 3-1 at home to South West Combination Ladies leaders Yeovil Town on Sunday.

- Saints' under-14s went top of the New Forest Girls' League after defeating previously unbeaten Corfe Mullen 3-1.

The Bournemouth took the lead but Saints levelled before half-time with a goal from Cleo Rawlings.

Lisbeth Mottashed won a penalty for Saints in the second half and Elle Pearce duly converted from the spot.

Rawlings made the game safe when

she converted Tiffany Eley's cross.

Elsewhere in the league, Mudeford Phoenix Flames continued their great scoring run by winning 5-0 at Bitterne Belles. Sarum Youth and New Forest shared the points and goals with 2-2 draw, while Boscombe Albion and Crofton Saints won by 6-0 and 3-0 against New Forest Jets and Corfe Castle respectively.

- In Winchester and District Girls Football League action, Saints under-12s strengthened their position at the top of the table with a 7-1 victory over second placed Winchester Flyers.

Four goals from Georgia Rose-Mears and singles from Emily Herding, Leah Brown and Abbi Kill

gave Saints a magnificent seven.

Lauren Stone impressed in midfield for Saints, while Alisha Buckingham, Rachel Harman and Chloe Garrity were solid at the back.

Gutsy Winchester fought to the end, and their determined efforts were rewarded just before full-time with a goal for Daisy Beth Andrews.

Elsewhere, Warsash Wasps Black saw off St Francis 4-1 to move up to second and Hedge End Rangers beat Bishop's Waltham 1-0.

- Saints' under-11s defeated Crookham Rovers 10-0 with goals from Abbie Lee (4), Eleanor Elsey (3), Bethany Wilcock, Millie Barnes and Rebecca Quinn, while the club's under-tens beat Widbrook 5-0 in cup action – Jennifer King scoring all five goals in a clinical display of finishing.



**NO QUARTER GIVEN:**  
 Hampshire's Mitch Speechley-Price, left, goes for the ball during Hampshire Schools under-14s' 2-1 loss to Kent in the English Schools FA Cup.

Order no:  
 13718603



**BATTLE FOR THE BALL:** Hampshire's Bradley Fountain, right, in action against during Hampshire Schools under-16s' 4-1 loss to Kent in the English Schools FA Cup.

Daily Echo pictures by Chris Moorhouse Order no: 13718600

# Premiership Spotlight



# ENGLAND'S FINEST?

**Southgate lauds Harry's England credentials but would like to see more homegrown competition for top job**

**GARETH** Southgate feels former Saints boss Harry Redknapp continues to make himself a "strong contender" to be the next national team manager – but maintains more work needs to be done to develop home-grown elite coaches.

Redknapp has overseen Spurs' rise up the Barclays Premier League, with Wednesday's 2-0 home win over Everton moving the north-London club level with Manchester United and just three points behind leaders Manchester City, whom they take on at the Etihad Stadium on January 22.

Current manager Fabio Capello is set to stand down after the European Championships this summer, and Football Association chairman David Bernstein has confirmed there is a "desire" for the Italian's successor being English – although there have been no cast-iron guarantees on the issue.

Ex-England defender Southgate last year took up a part-time role with the FA as head of elite development to work alongside Sir Trevor Brooking, the director of technical development.

And the 41-year-old former Middlesbrough manager believes an improved network of top English coaches, not just the likes of Redknapp, has to be a prerequisite for the future.

"Long-term, clearly for everybody it is preferable to have an English manager in charge of England, to support all of the coaching structure and give people a pathway through," Southgate admitted.

"It would be ridiculous to say Harry must not be a strong contender with what Tottenham are doing, but there has genuinely been no conversations about it, and the [FA] chairman [David Bernstein] has said he will make a decision after the tournament."

"What we have to do at the FA is help play our part with the coaching badges to get as many English coaches and managers qualified as high as we can."

"If you turn around and say the next England manager and then the one after that has to be English, well there



**STRONG CONTENDER:** Harry Redknapp is the favourite to succeed Fabio Capello as England boss.



is only Harry, Alan Pardew [at Newcastle] and [West Brom manager] Roy Hodgson who are working in the Premier League.

"All three of those, in different ways, have excellent credentials for what they have done.

"But we need a bigger pool of people in those positions of power."

There might be a couple more English-born managers in the Premiership next season if Nigel Adkins and Sam Allardyce take Saints and West Ham up respectively.

At present there are SEVEN Scottish-born managers in the top flight – Sir Alex Ferguson, Kenny Dalglish, Paul Lambert, David Moyes, Alex McLeish, Owen Coyle and Steve Kean.

Southgate (inset, below) – who won 57 international caps – believes the long-overdue National Football Centre at St George's Park, Burton-on-Trent, which is set to finally open in the summer will help become a "hub" for the next generation of managers.

"As well as being a home for the England teams, it will be coaching education and development, which is an important role because we have never had a home for coaching," said Southgate, who had a spell in charge of Boro from 2006 to 2009, but was eventually sacked following relegation from the Premier League.

"As much as anything, the interaction between people on courses is as important as what is being taught.

"If you have got courses where you might have junior international teams there, or the League Managers' Association based there, you are going to get senior managers passing through as well."

"It will be a real hub of learning and a great environment for people to go to."

Southgate also accepts the dynamics of grass-roots football is "changing", with a rapid increase in the number of people playing five-a-side at a nationwide network of purpose built complexes rather than the traditional 11-a-side format on a Sunday morning.

The Sports Pink last week reported that although the amount of 11-a-side adult and junior teams had dropped in recent years, the same cannot be said for the small-sided game.

*Gareth Southgate was speaking at the launch of the Carlsberg Pub Cup, a nationwide five aside competition for players of all standards. To register your pub visit [www.carlsberg.co.uk/pubcup](http://www.carlsberg.co.uk/pubcup). Carlsberg is the official beer of the England football team and sponsor of UEFA EURO 2012.*

# Redknapp right to aim high

WITH each week that passes there is growing conviction in the tone and demeanour of Harry Redknapp that Tottenham could soon be depositing their first league title for more than half a century in the trophy cabinet at White Hart Lane.

Of course, with almost half of the season still to negotiate and Manchester City leading by three points and Manchester United a notch above on goal difference, former Saints boss Redknapp is too savvy to get carried away with overly bullish predictions, writes **FRANK MALLEY**.

But as win after win stacks up the question keeps coming: Can Tottenham win the Premier League?

Redknapp answers it as honestly as he can. "It's not impossible for us to win the league," he said after the latest victory against Everton. "We have a chance. The players believe we have a good chance."

So do I. So do an increasing number of fans with no allegiance to Tottenham other than that they recognise what Redknapp has achieved at White Hart Lane so far is good for football.

For a start, if it wasn't for Tottenham we would now be looking at a two-horse title race centred on parochial tribal rivalry in Manchester, a rivalry which has been rekindled by team building to the tune of £350m by one of the world's richest men in Sheikh Mansour.

No one's saying Redknapp has not had cash to spend either, but the Tottenham transformation appears to have been done with regard to a more traditional route, including recapturing the entertaining ideals laid down in the club's glory years of the 1960s.

Not by throwing cash willy-nilly and buying players to keep them away from other clubs, which has appeared to be one strategy at the Etihad Stadium, but by sensible, intuitive purchases.

Such as Rafael van der Vaart for £8m from Real Madrid, surely one of the bargains of the decade, and £5m Scott Parker, signed from Saints' promotion rivals West Ham, who has given the midfield balance.

Yet while Redknapp's acumen in the transfer market is one of his undeniable talents, it is not the most significant detail which has taken Tottenham past Liverpool and Arsenal and Chelsea in the race for a Champions League spot.

The most important asset at White Hart Lane is Redknapp's ability to man-manage.

It is his triumph in keeping the non-playing members of a big squad focused and ambitious and prepared to give everything for the cause when called upon infrequently.

Yes, there have been rumblings of discontent from striker Roman Pavlyuchenko and Luka Modric's head was turned in the summer by an offer from Chelsea which would have trebled his wages.

But no one would accuse them of selling Redknapp short on the field.

That is Redknapp's skill and the one which makes him favourite to take over from England manager Fabio Capello when the European Championships are done this summer.

Harmony and momentum. Those are the twin thrusts at the heart of a Tottenham surge which has seen just one defeat in their last 19 matches.

It is the thrilling football at White Hart Lane, however, the sweeping runs of ex-Saint Gareth Bale and the guile of Modric, which is drawing comparison with Bill Nicholson's side which became the first English club to win the League and FA Cup double in 1961 and the first to win a European trophy, the Cup Winners' Cup in 1963.

Could Redknapp emulate the legendary Nicholson? Could he deliver Tottenham's first league trophy for 51 years?

It is more than a dream. It is becoming distinctly possible as, with each press conference, Redknapp appears to echo the most famous quote of Nicholson.

"It is better to fail aiming high than to succeed aiming low," Nicholson said.

Redknapp believes Tottenham can win the league all right. What's more, it is becoming increasingly plain that he deserves to do so.

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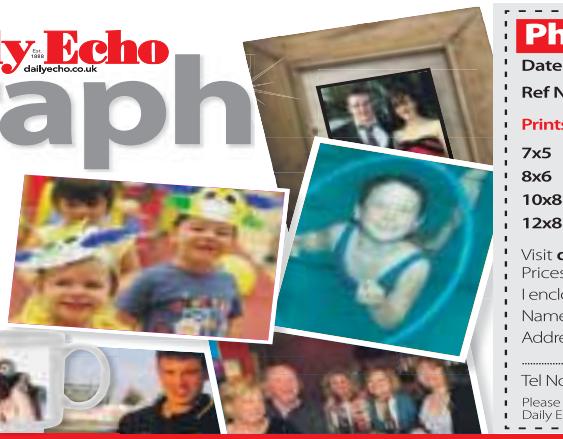
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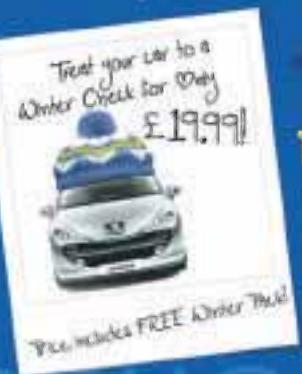


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# LONDON 2012 OLYMPICS COUNTDOWN



## Lelliott's Winter warmer

JAMES Lelliott is hoping his Winter Youth Olympic Games debut can be the first steps towards a glittering – and varied – international sporting career.

Having represented GB at the European Youth Olympic Festival in Finland in 2009, Lelliott, 18, who is a member of Bournemouth AC and a former Forres Sandle Manor School (Fordingbridge) pupil, is no stranger to a national tracksuit.

However, having taken to the track in the long jump in Tampere it will be a course of a different variety, and temperature, in Austria next week.

Having been picked out by a British Bobsleigh talent ID day Lelliott has spent the last 18 months leading a double life as a brakeman cum long-jumper.

His bobsleigh experiment will reach its head at the Youth Olympics in Austria next week but despite taking a break afterwards, Lelliott insists it won't be goodbye for good.

With the World Athletics Championships in Moscow in 2013 his next major goal, Lelliott, right, will concentrate on sand not ice for now but is planning on making Russia his go-to destination of the next few years



by launching a Winter Olympic qualification tile in 2014.

"I am really looking forward to being out in Austria and experiencing a Youth Olympic Games," said Lelliott.

"The bobsleigh still scares me to death every time but I love doing it and, while I want to have a break for a couple of years after next week, I want to come back to it."

"The goal for me is to get back into the long-jump full time then and try to get to the World Championships in 2013."

"Then after that I'd love to try and get into the Winter Olympic squad for Sochi in Russia in 2014. That is the plan."

Lelliott will compete in Innsbruck as part of a 24-strong GB team that will go head-to-head with over 1,000 athletes from all over the world.

The 18-year-old will link up with driver Olly Biddulph in the Austrian Tyrol and, despite the pair's relative inexperience in the bobsleigh world, Lelliott is in confident mood.

"It would be quite nice to win a medal and we think we can, we are confident," he said. The British Olympic Association prepares and leads British athletes at the summer, winter and youth Olympic Games. It works in partnership with sport National Governing Bodies to enhance Olympic success and is responsible for championing the Olympic values. olympics.org.uk

# Raising the BAR ...

**ROYAL Yachting Association Olympic manager Stephen Park believes the new Ben Ainslie Racing (BAR) team will provide a huge boost for British sailing.**

Three-time Olympic gold medalist Ainslie this week launched his own team in central London, with BAR set to compete in the 2012/13 America's Cup World Series after this year's Games.

BAR will be underwritten by Oracle Racing, whom Ainslie will join for their defence of the 34th America's Cup, but the Lymington-based sailor does not believe the busy schedule will take him off course for Olympic gold.

Park agrees with Ainslie and thinks it could have a positive impact on performance, as well as provide a long-term benefit for British sailing.

"There is of course a risk that [the commitments] could have a negative impact," Hampshire-based Park said.

"From my perspective I think it will have a positive impact as it will allow him to have something else to

focus his energies on.

"That will keep him fresh for the times he does go Finn sailing. There is no sailing in AC45 campaign between now and the end of the Olympics so there is not a huge distraction in terms of time.

"But, of course, there will be some organisational and management aspects, which will take some time. But I think for him to have something to look forward to and spend a bit of time on is good."

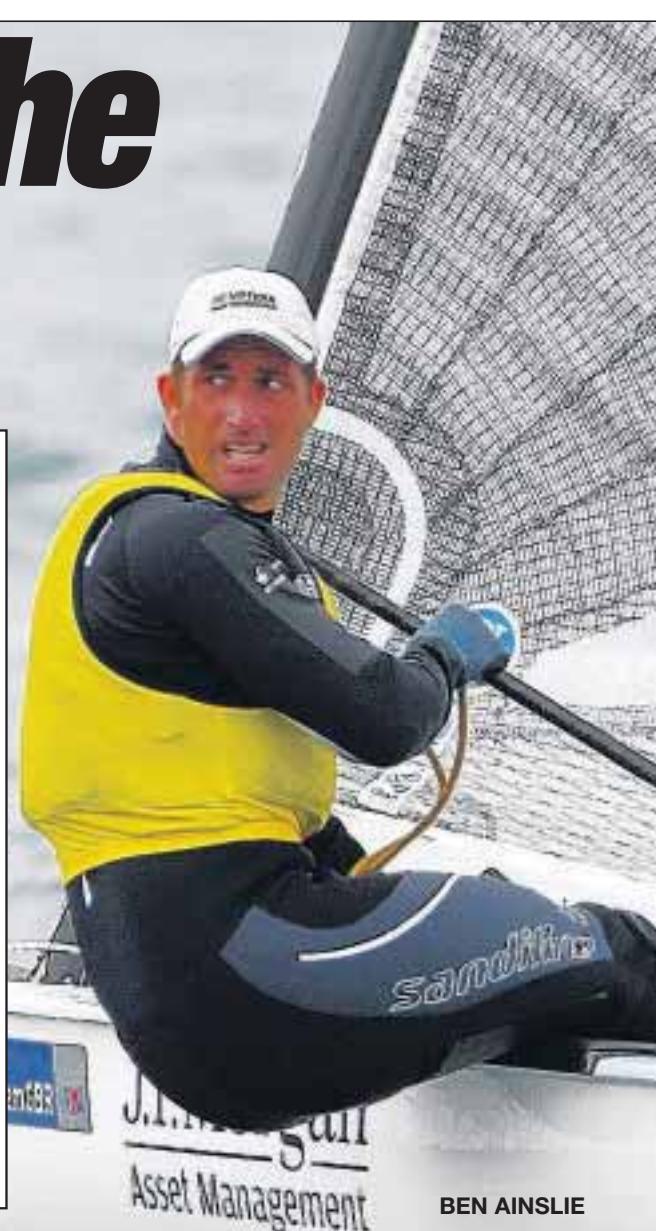
"The one thing about Ben is if he thinks it is going to impact his performance at the Olympic Games, he won't do it because he has no interest in turning up and not winning gold."

"In the bigger picture, it is fantastic for British sailing to have a boat that could well lead to a British-skipped America's Cup challenge."

"If that is where it ends up further down the line that will be fantastic."

"For the mean time, it is just brilliant to have one of our Olympic sailors in the America's Cup, competing at the highest level, operating and delivering top performances."

STEPHEN PARK



BEN AINSLIE



RACHELLE ROGERS

# Journey into the unknown

HAMPSHIRE'S Rachelle Rogers is no stranger to the rigours of international competition.

But the alpine skier admits she is stepping into the unknown at next week's Winter Youth Olympics, writes BEN BAKER.

The 16-year-old has been competing internationally for Great Britain for more than a year, ending last season the number one ranked youth in giant slalom, slalom and super-G.

And she has demonstrated her prowess on pistes around Europe, becoming British Under-18 slalom champion last year as well as finishing fifth in the slalom in Val Thorens, France, at the Belgian Championships.

All this earned her selection to Great Britain's 24-strong squad heading to Innsbruck for the Winter Youth Olympics, something she knows will be like nothing she has ever done.

"I was over the moon when I found out that I was a part of Team GB heading to Austria as it is a big competition for me at my age," the St Catherine's School pupil said.

"I have represented Great Britain before as when you turn 15, which I did last year in June, you start competing at internationals."

"But although I have done international competitions, I have never done anything at this level. It is a big step up for me."

"Because I don't really know what to expect, I am just going to Innsbruck looking to try my hardest and seeing what that brings."

"If I go there and try and have fun and make the most of the experience then I am sure it will be a good competition for me, whatever happens results wise."

Since this is Rogers' first taste of an Olympic-style event, she heads to

Austria with an open mind as she starts on the path which hopefully leads to a senior Games outing.

And as she looks to take her first steps towards this ultimate goal, the Bordon-based youngster can't help but let her mind wander.

"This is hopefully just the start for me in what will lead to a senior Winter Olympic Games," she said.

"So these early experiences will help me not be overwhelmed by things like the athletes' village and the standard of competition."

"For our sport you don't really hit your peak until you are in your early 20s so, until then, it is all about gaining experience."

The British Olympic Association prepares and leads British athletes at the summer, winter and youth Olympic Games. It works in partnership with sport National Governing Bodies to enhance Olympic success and is responsible for championing the Olympic values. olympics.org.uk

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# GAMES NEWS

LONDON 2012 UPDATE



## Danson ready for big time

**GREAT BRITAIN** forward Alex Danson has been an international player for more than a decade, but it is only now she feels ready to properly compete with the world's best.

Her confidence comes from a variety of sources: experience, success, changes in the hockey framework and Lottery funding.

But most importantly, she has the self-belief gained from becoming a key component for both GB and England that tells her that this is her time.

In December, the 26-year-old, below, was named in the International Hockey Federation's All-Star team for 2011 along with Reading club-mate and Helen Richardson.

It is a far cry from the nervous youngster who was "completely useless" at her first England trial.

Danson admits she never foresaw the progress which took her to the Beijing Olympics and should get her to the London Games this summer.

"I always loved sport and being active, but I don't think I ever really thought it would happen," said the Southampton-born former Trojans and Slough player, who first picked up a stick at seven.

"I remember the first time I played for my county and thought it was brilliant."

"I saw a girl in a green South (of England) jacket and I thought 'She is my hero'."

"Then I played for the South and got invited to an England trial and I could not have been more nervous or more rubbish because I was completely useless."

"But every time you get a sniff at the next level it was like you wanted the whole thing. So, even though I'd been fortunate to go to the 2002



Thanks to the unique contribution of National Lottery players, more than 1,200 athletes like Alex Danson are benefiting from world class support as they prepare for London 2012 and beyond. To find out more, visit [www.national-lottery.co.uk/bepartofit](http://www.national-lottery.co.uk/bepartofit)



GRAEME SWANN

## Cricket: Pakistan v England

# WE'LL MASTER UAE PITCH CONDITIONS, SAYS TREMLETT

**ENGLAND** are confident they can continue to adapt their pace-bowling skills to the demands of the Middle East.

Chris Tremlett, who took four wickets in the 100-run win over a Pakistan Cricket Board XI in the three-day warm-up fixture which concluded at the GCA ground on Friday, has no doubts that he and others can transfer their Test match wicket-taking ability to the United Arab Emirates.

Former Hampshire seamer Tremlett has proved especially effective for England on bouncy pitches over the past 13 months, notably in Perth against Australia and on his former home ground at the Rose Bowl against Sri Lanka.

But the 6ft 7in seamer does not believe the slow and unresponsive pitches of Dubai and Abu Dhabi, in three Tests against Pakistan this month and next, will be too much for him.

Tremlett expects skills such as reverse-swing and slower balls to serve him and his team-mates well.

"It's pretty much what we expected," he said.

"There isn't going to be too much bounce, like there was in England."

"It's pretty hard work, but it's about adapting to those skills – reverse-swing, which we practise in the nets. We did it well in this match."

Alastair Cook and Jonathan Trott top-scored in each innings, and Monty Panesar finished with a match haul of 103 in his first England appearance since last winter's pre-Ashes tour match in Hobart.

Tremlett too, whose recovery from an eye infection has been slow but did not hamper his bowling here, has been out of action for his country – since a back injury interrupted his Test summer last July.

He added: "These wickets are lower and slower."

"In England there is bounce and carry, and the ball probably does swing more consistently."

"But even though they are slow, they're quite skiddish – so you can probably bowl more back-of-a-length than you think you can."

"It's tough for all the guys. It's not what we're used to at home."

"But we've shown in this game we've adapted quite quickly."

England finished their warm-up programme with two victories from two

attempts – and although there were qualms about two quiet matches for number one spinner Graeme Swann and a shortage of runs for Kevin Pietersen, Ian Bell and Eoin Morgan, they believe they will start the Test series on Tuesday in good shape.

"I think we've got a lot out of the last two games. The guys are really happy going into the Tests," said Tremlett.

### Pakistan v England in UAE

#### Fixtures

**January:**

17-21 1st Test, Dubai

25-29 2nd Test, Abu Dhabi

**February:**

3-7 3rd Test, Dubai

13 1st ODI, Abu Dhabi

15 2nd ODI, Abu Dhabi

18 3rd ODI, Dubai

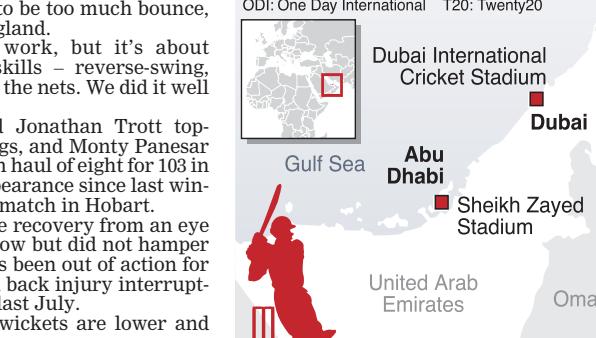
21 4th ODI, Dubai

23 1st T20 international, Dubai

25 2nd T20 international, Dubai

27 3rd T20 international, Abu Dhabi

ODI: One Day International T20: Twenty20



#### Head-to-head

	Tests	ODIs	20/20
Matches	71	68	7
Pakistan wins	13	28	2
England wins	22	38	5
Draws / NR	36/0	0/2	0

Press Association Graphic



**IN THE GROOVE:** Chris Tremlett of England celebrates with teammates after dismissing Afaf Raheem of Pakistan Cricket Board XI during the three-day warm-up match at the ICC Global cricket academy ground Dubai.



**Swann fit and ready to go distance**

**GRAEME SWANN** is ready to bowl the marathon match-winning spells England may need from him if they are to get the better of Pakistan in the United Arab Emirates.

Swann mustered only two wickets, to his spin partner Monty Panesar's eight, in England's final warm-up victory over a Pakistan Cricket Board XI.

But this morning he reported himself "100 per cent" fit after the scan on a sore thigh which had cleared him to play in England's 100-run success against the PCB.

Swann has bowled 70 overs on this 12-day-old tour already, and is expecting many more in three Tests against Pakistan – with four one-day internationals and three Twenty20s to follow.

"The ball does spin – especially on a six-day old pitch yesterday," he said.

"I should be getting a lot of work out here. It's obviously hot, and the seamers can't do the job they do in England – because it's just not the same conditions."

"I'm looking forward to doing a lot of bowling and, I hope, winning the games for England."

Swann is also encouraged that England stuck to their intention in their warm-up programme by putting the chance of victory ahead of the possibility of extra time in the middle for all batsmen.

That meant that yesterday they duly declared in time to take all ten PCB wickets in two sessions, and chalk up a second successive win.

"It would have been very easy to treat that as batting practice and let some of the guys get some time in the middle."

"But the whole remit of the team is to be ruthless and win every game we can."

"We were very happy that we managed to do that."

As for his minor injury niggle, he added: "I was a bit nervous going into the last warm-up game, because my thigh felt like a 32-year-old's rather than a 22-year-old's."

"But it managed to get through and felt great by the end of the game. So touch wood I'll be 100 per cent fit for the first Test."

# Scare are they now



**PIRELLI:** October 1988

**FAREHAM (RIGHT):** Jan 1994, back row (left to right): Steve Hills, Scott Shirley, Trevor Reed, Richard Bennett, Tim Tavender, Andy Britton, Paul Jones, Dave Cousins. Front: Steve Ratliffe, Andy King, Kev Smith, Colin Bradbury, Chris Seabold, Simon Everitt, Guy Lawson.



**OLD EDWARDIAN:** March 1990



**FAREHAM:** March 1988.



**TROJANS (ABOVE):** Feb 1990, back row (left to right): Ellis, Gilbert, Tubb, Roland, Muller, M Aspin, Archer, Watts. Front row: Roberts, Baker, J Aspin, Ford, R Aspin.



**SOUTHAMPTON LADIES:** Oct 1994, back row (left to right): Roger Merry (coach), Sue Levick, Jo Knight, Linda Dunham, Sue Brown, Sue Orr, Jane Thomas. Front: Gill Dunn, Nina Thorpe, Sue Crowley, Fiona Jarman, Ann Marie Merrick, Helen Moseley.



**FAREHAM (LEFT):** Date unknown, front row (left to right): Guy Lawson, Kevin Whifford, Andy Atkins. Middle: Peter Gilbert, Colin Bradbury, Paul Jones (Capt), Nigel Brown. (Back) Roger Hackman, Roger Thomason, Peter Symmonds, Kevin Burge.



**SOUTHAMPTON LADIES:** Dec 1993, back row (left to right): Roger Merry (Coach), Jane Thomas, Sue Levick, Clare Hodder, Linda Dunham, Nena Thorpe, Sally Pipkin, Sue Orr. Front: Gill Dunn, Anne-Marie Merrick, Sue Crowley, Fiona Jarman, Helen Moseley, mascot Lucee.

# Scare are they now



**SOUTHAMPTON LADIES:** Oct 1992, back row (left to right): Diane Moysey (manager), Gill Dunn, Clair Fennessy, Jo Horsley, Helen Moseley, Linda Dunham, Sandra Rennison, Jane Botterill, Sue Levick, Louise Spruce, Roger Merry (coach). Front: Nena Thorpe, Anne-Marie Merrick, Kathryn Baile, Fiona Jarman (capt), Sue Crowley, Sue Orr, Sue Brown.



**HAVANT:** March 1993, back row (left to right): Peter Nail, Stewart Avery, Russell Garcia, Jimmy Lewis, David Faulkner, Harry Riste, Colin Cooper (captain). Front: David Roberts, Derek Cuncliffe, Steve Baker, Steve Lawson, Gary Roberts, Ian Pattison.



**TAUNTON'S COLLEGE (LEFT):** April 1990, back row (left to right): Dave Spring, Adam Jones, Paul Lapworth, Mathew Plant, Nick Bowles. Front: Shakeel Jamil, John Cowie, Tim Boswell (captain), Mark Tubb.

**OLD TAUNTONIANS (RIGHT):** Dec 1987, back row (left to right): Kevin Smith, David Donaldson, Mike Barnfield (captain), Ed Daubeney, Paul Eastwood, Clive Thomson. Front: David Holt, Eric Holt, Philip Barbagallo, Colin Weeks, Richard Harris, John Traynor.



**HANTS/SURREY LEAGUE REGIONAL LEAGUE SIDE:** Feb 1989, back row (from left): Rob Bone, Alistair Barratt, Keith Millar, David Blackmore, Malcolm Terry, Peter Wedderburn, Ed Fisher and Chris Arnold. Front: Peter Slade (capt), John Wallace, Colin Day, Andy Dunn, Dave German, Ken Lampert.



**SOUTHAMPTON LADIES:** Dec 1993, back row (left to right): Sally Pitkin, Anne-Marie Merrick, Sue Crowley, Linda Dunham, Sue Levick, Gill Dunn, Roger Merry (coach). Front: Nena Thorpe, Sue Browne, Clare Hodder, Helen Moseley, Sue Orr, Fiona Jarman, mascot Lucee.



**HAVANT:** March 1990, back row (left to right): David Roberts, John Gwynn, Rob Hill, Marcus Coleman, Don Williams, Alan Cave, Sean Rowlands, Neil McMillan, Russell Garcia, Bobby Seabrook, Scott Knipe, Alan Walker. Front: David Whittle, Stuart Avery, Gary Roberts, Peter Nail, David Faulkner (captain), Colin Cooper, John Goldring, Paul Cooper, Steve Lawson, John Wright.

**OLD EDWARDIANS:** Jan 1991, back row (left to right): Malcolm Terry, Derek Fitt, Rob Bone, Simon Watkins, Stewart Robertson, Ali Barrett, Gareth Davies. Front: Peter Slade, Barry Shorto, Richard Hughes, Ken Lampert.





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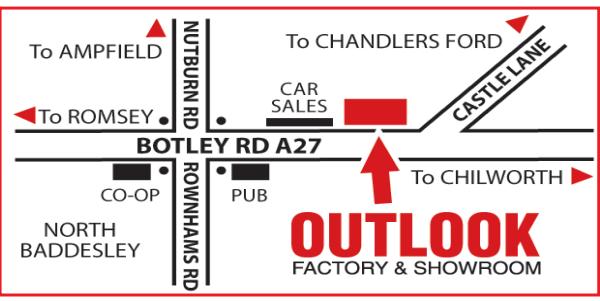
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20 Feb :	North Devon - Ilfracombe 5 day	£169
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02 Mar :	Germany - Monschau House Party 4 day	£259
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04 Mar :	Bournemouth at Leisure 6 day	£179
05 Mar :	Blackpool Cabaret Break 5 day	£179
05 Mar :	Eastbourne 5 day	£217
05 Mar :	Mystery Tour 5 day	£159
05 Mar :	Isle of Wight - Mock Cruise 5 day	£199
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12 Mar :	Highland Fling 5 day	£249
12 Mar :	Wales - Castle & Slate 5 day	£259
12 Mar :	Warners Alvaston Hall 5 day	£299
12 Mar :	North Wales - Rhyl 5 day	£175
16 Mar :	Paris City Break 4 day	£219
19 & 26 Mar :	Torquay at Leisure 5 day	£109
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